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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk December 20, 2015
East edition No 691

HEALTH

Blood contamination fight 'will go on'

Victim determined to see justice finally served

TRANSPORT

Services set for major disruption

Why London stations will be shut over Christmas period

ENTERTAINMENT

Your 16-page festive TV guide inside

Farewell Downton and welcome back Sherlock

CELEBRATE

Season's greetings

Wishing our readers and advertisers a very happy Christmas

Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs
"IN 20 YEARS OF REVIEWING PANTOMIMES, I'VE NEVER SEEN A BETTER ONE THAN THIS."
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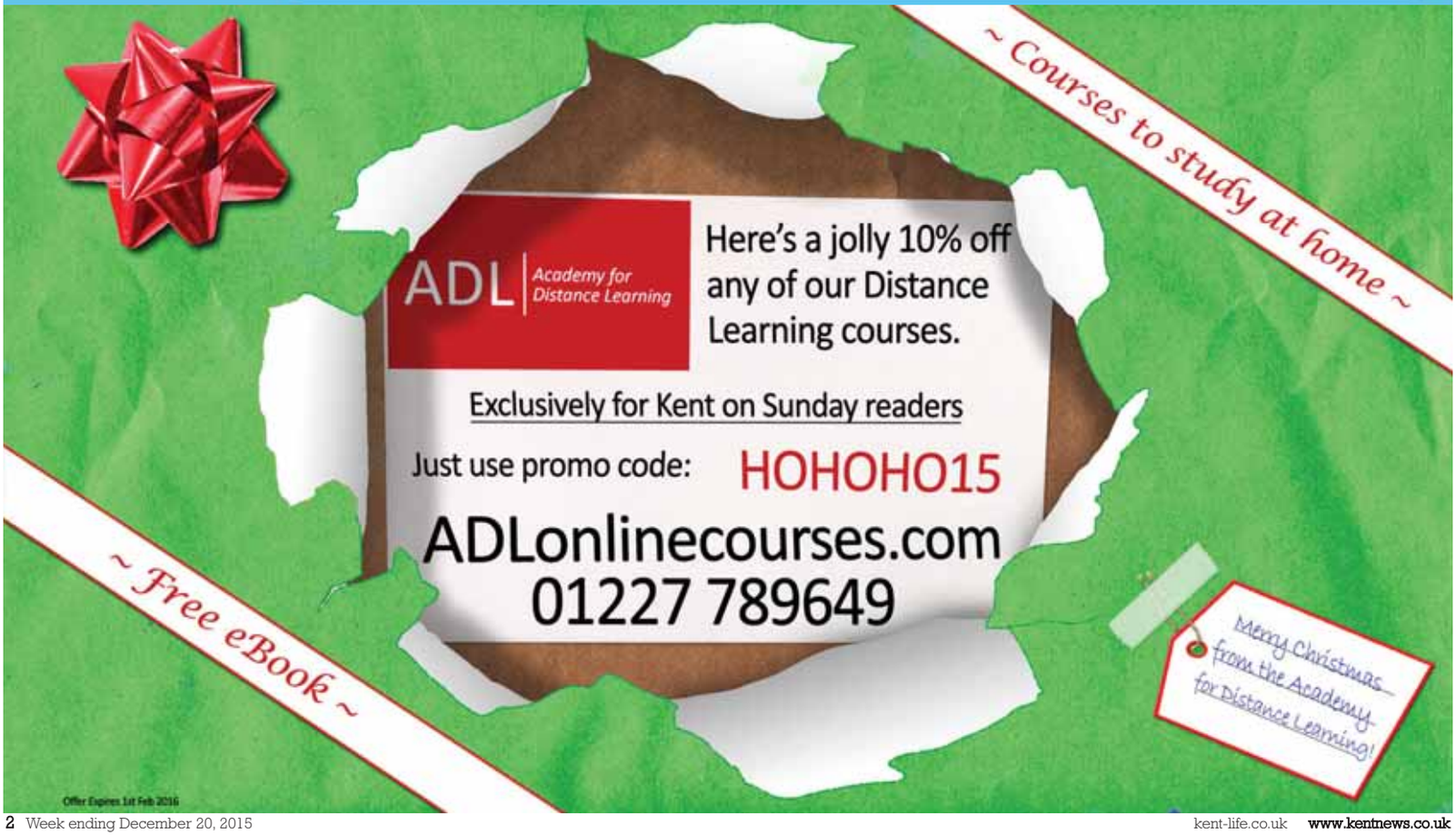

Kent on Sunday

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Open your minds and consider before criticising

IT'S something of cliche to talk about compassion at Christmas; as if this is the only time of the year when we should give a moment's thought to others.

But this year, in this county, we need to not only ensure we demonstrate it, but challenge a lack of it in other people; be they friends, family or colleagues, all year round.

The recent arrival of three families from Syria in the borough of Ashford has been welcomed by the majority but feared by a minority. At least, you would like to think it is just a minority.

They loudly bleat about how the local authority - along with others in Kent - should be prioritising their own taxpayers, of over-crowding, of a threat to our security. It is, let's not pretend otherwise, a nonsense argument conducted by those who are living proof xenophobia, or worse, remains alive and well in our communities. And we need to stand up against it.

So let's first be clear; these families (and Kent is not going to see many of them) have been forced to flee because their homeland - where they would much rather be - has been torn apart; a region where the death cult of the so-called Islam State runs riot amid other warring factions. They had been forced into refugee camps and from there selected to be given refuge here.

We're not being over run - look out the window, there's plenty of space here whatever you may think - and as a civilised nation we are doing exactly what we should be doing - helping our fellow man; mothers, fathers, children. We as a local community, should be offering a hand of friendship, Compassion, after all, is for life, not just for Christmas.

Editor **Chris Britcher**

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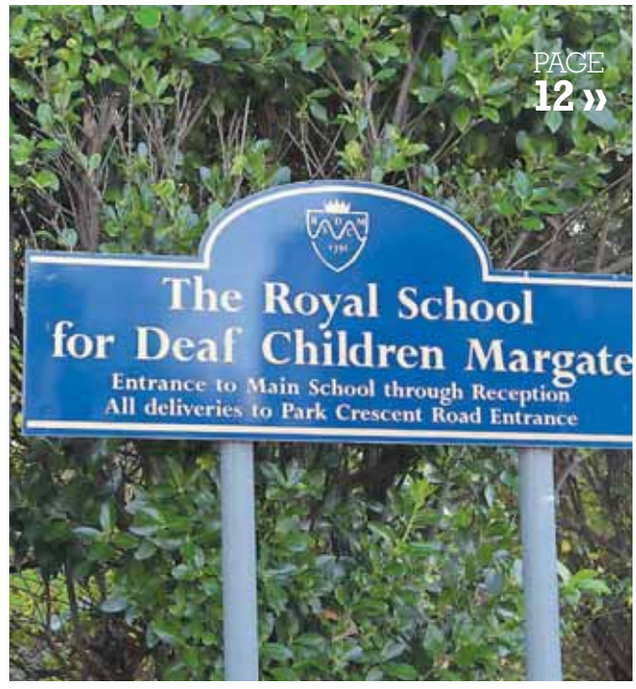

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seven days

Stories which made the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

Blood scandal victim and KoS in Commons debate

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT: South Thanet MP raised the issue on Wednesday just after PMQs

A VICTIM of the blood contamination scandal, who along with this newspaper became part of a House of Commons debate on Wednesday, has slammed the government's continued delays on delivering a compensation package.

Public health minister Jane Ellison came under pressure from a number of MPs after confirming a long-awaited consultation would start in January. It had previously been promised before Christmas.

They were already fuming after a promised announcement in the chancellor's autumn statement as to money put aside to pay out to victims did not materialise.

Steve Dymond, 59, was born with haemophilia - a condition which prevents the blood from clotting normally. He was treated with blood products during the 1970s and 80s. But with no suitable checks in place on the blood by the NHS, many sufferers found themselves infected with the likes of HIV or hepatitis C (for the full story turn to page 22). Mr Dymond suffers from hepatitis C and recently suffered another health blow.

It is thought more than 7,500 people were infected - some 2,000 of whom have since died as a result.

His case was raised in the chamber by South Thanet's Conservative MP Craig Mackinlay. Refering by name to Mr Dymond, he said: "This is a big subject in my part of Kent. It is trailed massively in the Kent on Sunday, which covers it regularly.

"We need closure and those affected need certainty in their lives. Can the minister assure me of that?"

In response Mrs Ellison said: "I have corresponded directly with Mr Dymond's partner, so I know the level of suffering he endures."

But Mr Dymond told KoS: "In a week when the prognosis for my liver damage suddenly became significantly worse - chemotherapy and the prospect of a transplant are the only gifts in Santa's sack for us this year - witnessing the perpetual acts of prevarication by Jane Ellison and her officials to put off bringing resolution to this most horrific of NHS treatment disasters, brought to mind the hopelessness and pointlessness of the labours of Sisyphus [Greek myth where he pushed a rock up a mountain only for it to fall back again].

"For the 2,000 dead and the survivors there is no way we will allow Whitehall to crawl away from their responsibilities - this issue is not going away."

Farage under fire as Ukip MP calls for him to step down as leader

OPEN warfare has broken out among Ukip's senior politicians after the party's only MP called on leader Nigel Farage to quit.

Douglas Carswell said the party needed a "fresh face" at the top but Mr Farage, who lives in Westerham and stood in the South Thanet seat at May's general election, hit back, calling on the MP to "put up or shut up".

He said Mr Carswell was "out on a limb with almost no support in the party" and insisted his leadership enjoyed the "overwhelming" backing of the party's voters.

Mr Carswell's attack on the leader was motivated by the party's poor result in the Oldham West and Royton by-election, which saw Labour comfortably hold the seat with a majority of more than 10,000.

In an interview with BBC Essex, Clacton MP Mr Carswell said: "The Oldham by-election to me said very clearly that I think we need a fresh face."

Mr Carswell suggested that Mr Farage had taken the party as far as he could and Ukip needed to "change gear".

He said: "We all need to think very carefully as to whether or not we can build beyond the base we have now got without that change."

He said the party should avoid being seen as "unpleasant" and "socially illiberal".

Instead, Mr Carswell suggested Ukip would make a breakthrough in the polls if it was an "optimistic, sunshine, smiley, socially liberal, unapologetically free market party".

But Mr Farage accused the Clacton MP of privately plotting against him since May's general election.

He said: "He has been having a go at me every single day since the general election, it's just that he has been doing it in private, briefing members, officials or the press or anyone that cares to listen and I'm greatly relieved that now he said it in public. The message is simple; we are a very strongly united party. He is trying to sow division where none exists. Douglas, frankly, must put up or shut up."

Don't forget to pick up KoS over the festive season

KENT on Sunday will be coming out across the Christmas and New Year period as normal but our deadlines will be earlier than normal.

Next weekend's paper will go to press on Christmas Eve and be available to pick up from your normal stockist over the weekend of December 26 and 27.

The following weekend's paper, dated January 3, will be available earlier in many areas with copies hitting the streets from December 31, a Thursday.

However, our distributors will still be out in Ashford town centre on January 2 to hand out copies that weekend.

But don't fret if you miss a copy - you can access both editions, in full and for free - via our website www.kentnews.co.uk.

Roadworks placed on pause to avoid festive congestion

ALMOST 50 miles of roadworks in the south east are to be lifted to ensure journeys this Christmas do not see festive cheer replaced by fuming in a traffic jam.

Highways England will ensure work stops by 6am on December 23.

Transport secretary Patrick McLoughlin said: "We are determined to apply common sense to our roads so we can minimise disruption."

Nearly 2.5 miles of works for drainage surveys between junction eight, for Leeds Castle, and nine for Ashford, will be lifted on the M20 as well a nearly mile-long stretch at junction four near Maidstone.In addition, concrete repairs on the A2 at Littledale, near Dartford, will be paused too.

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seven days

Stories which made the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

College review to get under way at end of 2016

A REVIEW on further education colleges and sixth form colleges across Kent is due to start next year, the minister for skills confirmed this week.

It followed a question asked by Gordon Henderson about what steps were being taken to establish a college in his constituency in Sittingbourne.

Minister Nick Boles said: ''We have launched a process of locally-led area reviews to consider each area's skills needs and plan how further education colleges and sixth form colleges can best organise themselves to meet them. The Kent review is due to start in November 2016.''

He also told Mr Henderson he would be ''delighted'' to visit Swale to discuss the issue.

Crunch talks continue in bid to ease congestion at the Dartford Crossing

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

EFFORTS to tackle ongoing traffic problems at the Dartford Crossing have continued after the local MP met with representatives from Highways England this week.

The meeting followed the round table summit in October with Dartford and Kent county councils, Highways England, the Department for Transport and Kent Police aimed at achieving a multi-agency approach to the heavy congestion often experienced at the crossing.

Gareth Johnson said: "In the past few days we have seen serious delays all around the Dartford Crossing, which are unacceptable to motorists and local residents.

"Highways England is accepting that it needs to do more to tackle the congestion and they are working on ways of improving traffic flow.

"I think we can all agree that more needs to be done and quickly.

"Since the Dart Charge was introduced and the toll booths removed, the results have been very disappointing.

PROBLEM: Dartford Crossing

"We can't carry on with this situation which is causing misery for local residents who can't get to and from work when there is an incident," he said.

The toll booths were removed and replaced with a free-flow system just over a year ago, where users pay to use the crossing online, but the system has received widespread criticism since its introduction

Add Mr Johnson: "Last week I was shown the control centre at the crossing and observed how the crossing is managed. The sheer weight of traffic using the tunnels creates clear challenges for Highways England.

"The tunnels weren't designed for such a high volume of traffic and so it doesn't take much for tail backs to quickly build up. The current roadworks in Essex, just north of the tunnels, are causing a significant impact on the traffic on our side of the crossing.

"The junctions just north of the crossing are being improved and this work is causing queues back to the tunnel, requiring traffic lights to be used to manage the flow in the tunnel.

"Unfortunately, this is going to have a significant impact on traffic flow until the work is completed next year."

BUSY: Whitstable's thriving harbour

Quota change boost to our fishermen

FISHERMEN around the Kent coast have been celebrating after a deal was signed in Brussels to increase quotas to small-scale operators.

The quota for cod in the Eastern English Channel is being increased by 15 per cent thanks to recovering fish stocks.

The 2016 quota for skates and rays is also being increased by 21 per cent in the region. Common sole will see quotas cut by 14 per cent in the Eastern Channel, but this is less than the 26 per cent cut that had been expected.

In a further boost, quotas for haddock, sole and plaice will see an uplift to take into account the next stage of the discard ban coming into force in January 2016. Out of this increase the first 100 tonnes - and 10 per cent of anything more – will be given to small-scale fishermen in the 'under 10 metre' fleet.

South East Lib Dem MEP Catherine Bearder welcomed the EU deal: "The move to more sustainable fishing based on scientific evidence is bearing fruit. Recovering fish stocks have meant some quotas can be increased.

"I'll now be writing to the UK fisheries minister demanding that smaller fleets get a bigger share of the overall quotas being decided in the coming weeks."

Don't put pressure on NHS this season

HEALTH chiefs are calling on everyone to avoid putting unnecessary strain on medical services over the festive season by taking a few simple steps.

They are urging anyone on medication to ensure they have suitable supplies, have stocked up on cold and flu remedies and avoid heading to GP surgeries or hospitals if you have a diarrhoea or vomiting bug to avoid spreading contagious germs.

Dr Navin Kumta, who chairs the NHS Ashford Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), which plans and pays for the area's health services, said: ''The NHS is very busy in the lead-up to Christmas and between Christmas and the New Year. People sometimes call out of hours GP services or go to A&E for simple problems just because they haven't thought ahead.

''We are making a plea to patients to make sure they have everything they need over the festive season so urgent services are free to help those who really need them.''

Have your say on bus timetable changes

BUS firm Arriva is calling on travellers to make their views known on recent changes to bus routes in and around Dartford and Gravesham.

It follows alterations made over the summer to bus routes in Northfleet, including the numbers 483 and 480/490.

Arriva marketing director Simon Baxter explained: ''As our passengers know, a number of changes were made and we are keen to know how well they are working for local people.''

The appeal follows the recent decision, based on public consultation, to reverse alterations made to the 455 service in October and restore it to its original route with effect from February 1 2016.

Mr Baxter added: ''Whenever we make changes, we get some things right, and some things need looking at a second time, as they don't quite work as well as they should. We want to know if we should be making any adjustments.

To comment on Arriva routes and timetables, email talktous@arriva.co.uk,

Bogus caller warning after suspicious man

POLICE have issued a warning after a well-dressed man claiming to be an antiques expert knocked on doors in Sandwich and Deal.

Officers say residents should always be on guard for anyone calling at their home amid concerns of bogus callers.

Det Con Chris Brett said: ''He sounds very plausible but as always we want to remind residents to consider their safety and who they are inviting into their homes.

''Ask for identification and carefully check it, even if the person at the door has a pre-arranged appointment. Genuine callers will carry one from the organisation they represent.

''Do not just ring the number on a card that has been given to you - it may be fake. Look the number up first.

''If you have any doubts about whether the caller is genuine, ask them to leave and come back at a time that is convenient to you and when you have had a chance to ask someone to be with you.''

Anyone concerned over bogus callers should call 101 or 999 if a crime is in progress.

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Landlord Wilson unveils key pledges as he enters PCC race

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

PROPERTY tycoon Fergus Wilson says he is "definitely" standing for the post of Kent police and crime commissioner next May - and insists if he is elected he will create a special armed force focusing purely on the ports and Channel Tunnel.

The Maidstone businessman says it comes as Kent is on a "war footing" due to recent terrorist threats.

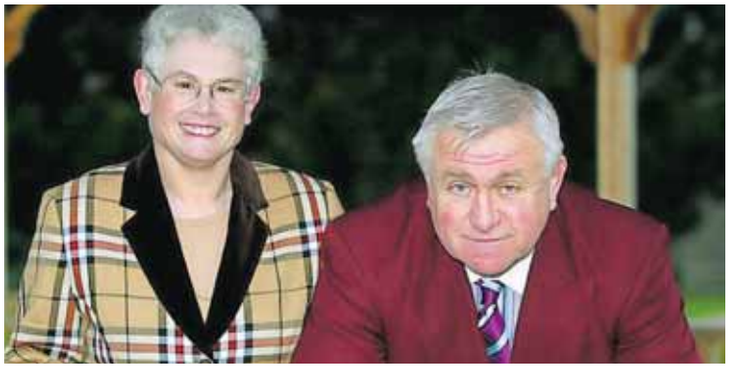
The stand alone unit, he says, would be funded by government and not come out of the Kent Police budget.

And he says a permanent fire arms unit at the tunnel will be joined by a detachment from the Army and operate a "shoot to kill policy in respect of suspected suicide bombers".

Mr Wilson, who along with wife Judith, recently confirmed they were in the process of selling their 900-house portfolio in a deal worth an estimated £250million, had made noises about standing in the inaugural election in 2012.

But now he has outlined the key parts of his manifesto. He claims it is "inevitable" there will be an attempt to detonate a bomb remotely in the Channel Tunnel by telephone.

The role in currently held by Ann Barnes who, as yet, has refused to confirm if she is to run again.



RUNNING: Fergus Wilson, with wife Judith, will run in next May's election he says

Mr Wilson said: "If elected I intend to create an armed police force specifically for dealing with the Channel Tunnel and Channel ports in Kent. The rest of Kent will remain unarmed, The force, which we will call for the Channel Tunnel Police Force, will be entirely autonomous and have its own chief constable. It will have control of Operation Stack and the M20 and M2 motorways."

But he said he did not support the prosposals for lorry parks - which many see as the long-term solution to solve the chaos caused by Stack.

"These will take too long to establish," he says. "Lorries bound for Channel ports will not be allowed off the M25 but turned back to their point of departure or other east of England ports."

In addition he says all exportation of live stock will be banned during industrial disputes.

For a full interview with Mr Wilson turn inside this edition of KoS.

High price of ditching cigarette on street

A GRAVESEND man who pleaded not guilty to dropping a cigarette butt in the street has been convicted and told to pay a total of £875,

Maidstone magistrates fined Jaswinder Khakh, 41, or Grange Road £200 plus costs and a victim surcharge.

He was spotted dropping the litter on Rathmore Road in March but contested a £75 fixed penalty notice.

First refugees from Syria have arrived

ASHFORD council has confirmed the first three refugee families from Syria arrived in the borough on Wednesday evening.

A spokesman for the council said: ''They were in good spirits, despite being tired from their difficult journey and placed in an extremely unfamiliar situation. We will work closely with them.''

Knole Centre to close

A NEUROLOGICAL rehabilitation centre in Sevenoaks is set to close on Christmas Eve it was revealed this week.

The unit, known now as the Knole Centre, is to shut after staff at the unit were caught on film apparently revealing poor quality care.

The negative publicity has reportedly affected the unit's ability to recruit staff.

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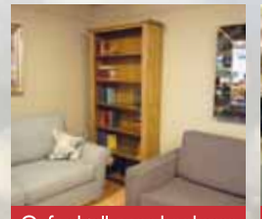
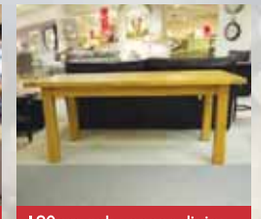
EARLY BIRD £50

Fontaine 5ft 4 drawer pocket sprung divan bed ~~was £1,448~~
EARLY BIRD £395

Stressless Sunrise leather chair and stool ~~was £1,599~~
EARLY BIRD £495

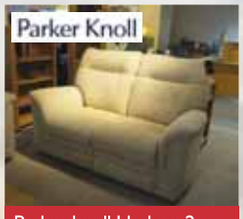


Oxford tall open bookcase
~~was £740~~
EARLY BIRD £90

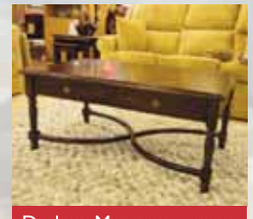


180cm oak veneer dining table ~~was £1,335~~
EARLY BIRD £250

Oxford lamp table
~~was £238~~
EARLY BIRD £35



Parker knoll Hudson 2 seater sofa ~~was £1,298~~
EARLY BIRD £295



Durham Magonany veneer coffee table ~~was £565~~
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CPRE loses High Court bid to challenge Dover scheme

A LEGAL challenge to controversial planning permission for a major development in Dover has been dismissed by a High Court judge.

The Kent branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) had taken steps over the proposals at Western Heights and Farthingloe (pictured).

Dover District Council had granted planning permission for 521 houses and a retirement village at Farthingloe and a large hotel at Western Heights.

The CPRE - who had termed the original planning consent as "clearly wrong" now have 21 days to seek leave to appeal.

Council leader, Paul Watkins, said: "This is a great day for democracy and a real boost to the town.

"It will bring a package of much needed, high quality housing, countryside access improvements and heritage works at Drop Redoubt alongside a new top quality hotel. I therefore hope that the scheme promoter, CGI, and investors can now catch-up following the delay caused by the CPRE challenge and make the long overdue progress on the eagerly awaited development."

Warning of a GP 'crisis' as numbers in decline

KENT is "lurching towards a GP crisis" according to a Labour county councillor.

Dr Mike Eddy, the party's spokesman on the health overview and scrutiny committee, said more must be done "to fixt the urgent shortage of GPs" in the county.

He made the call as he put forward a motion at a recent full council meeting at County Hall in Maidstone.

The motion asks the government to fix the "problem of retaining and recruiting GPs in Kent" and called on the government to "address the situation as a matter of urgency".

The motion was passed with a slight amendment from the ruling Conservative group.

Cllr Eddy said: "We are woefully short of GPs in Kent and the government are failing to address the crisis. They are sleeping at the wheel. Some 30 per cent of GPs in Kent are due to retire in the next ten years and we are lurching towards a crisis.

"We don't have enough medical students opting to become GPs because young doctors can no longer risk becoming partners in what are effectively private businesses. The role is less attractive now because GPs are so overworked and we have more and more GPs retiring early due to the same pressures.

"We need the government to reduce the burden of bureaucracy on GPs so they can spend more time treating patients and to increase the opportunities for training practice nurses to support GPs."

Hunt after cat is killed

POLICE are investigating reports of cat being killed after a black and white pet was found with fatal injuries in Chestnut Drive, Herne Bay, on Wednesday.

Police say it is an isolated incident and other pets are not thought to be at risk. Have information? Call 01843 222289.

Jail for holiday abuser

A MAN who forced a boy to touch him inappropriately while on holiday in Leysdown on Sheppey, has been jailed for four years.

Derek Stringer, 67, from Swindon in Wiltshire, forced the boy while on holiday in September 1987.

Students: Get the jab

CHARITY Meningitis Now is calling on students to take action to protect themselves from deadly meningitis this winter.

It is backing a Public Health England campaign to encourage students to get the Men ACWY vaccine while they're at home over the festive period.

Mews sell for £5million

A VICTORIAN mews just off the Pantiles in Tunbridge Wells has been sold to a luxury homes developer in a deal worth £5million.

The deal for Castle House is expected to be concluded in February by Newcourt Residential.

The complex comprises eight homes.

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Asking prices up by over 24%

2. 58 fines for HGVs

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3. Shoplifter appeal

A man drove into victim at supermarket

The Essential Guide:

...to Operation Stack

Two locations have been selected as potential sites for a lorry park

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Multiplex gets green light in town's revival

A £75m leisure complex in the heart of Ashford town centre was given the thumbs up by the council's planning committee this week. **Chris Murphy** takes a look at what it means for the town

MODERN: The cinema building will change colours during the day

A MULTI-million pound leisure complex - featuring cinema, hotel and restaurants - has been given the nod for the heart of Ashford town centre.

Councillors unanimously backed the proposals at an Ashford Borough Council planning committee to develop what was once the town's cattle market.

The 2.6 hectare (6.42 acre) site, Elwick Place, opposite Debenhams, was the market until the high speed rail link forced it to close.

UK developer Stanhope PLC announced plans in July for the £75m investment and received a positive response from a public consultation.

Phase one of Elwick Place includes a six screen cinema, a 60-bed family hotel, eight spaces for restaurants and bars, and 280 car parking spaces. The development is likely to generate around 250 new jobs.

A second phase, which consists of up to 200 apartments, will be considered by the planning committee in early 2016.

Leader of Ashford Borough Council, Gerry Clarkson, said: "A town centre cinema, set around a new square with places to eat and drink, will be a real draw and will help to bring extra vitality to the town centre during the day and evening. The old historic market gates will be incorporated into the landscaping to reflect a part of our history.

"It complements the major investment that has already taken place in the County Square shopping centre and Elwick Road shared space project, and is yet another example of the private sector seeing the opportunities that Ashford can offer.

"In a few years' time the town centre will look very different, with a new college being built, the Designer Outlet being extended and the office development in our commercial quarter moving forward.

LEISURE: it is hoped the complex will create hundreds of jobs for local people

This is another part of the puzzle and shows Ashford is the place to invest and we are creating an exciting location to live, work and enjoy life."

Gary Bourne, director at Stanhope, added: "We are looking forward to continuing to work closely with the council and community, during the construction of the scheme."

It is the latest stage in a major overhaul of the town centre which stalled back in 2008 when the global economy slumped.

Having broken the choke chain of the town's ring road, by making it two-way traffic, it controversially introduced the innovative shared space scheme with a view to opening the door to developing the land which sits between the ring road and the railway line.

But although the shared space scheme - which blurs the divisions between road and path to allow pedestrians more ease to cross while dropping the speed limit to just 20mph - has proved successful, the developments have stalled.

But in November, the formal contract for the construction of Ashford College's new campus at Elwick Road was completed as the £10.8m contract was awarded to BAM Construction.

Work to demolish buildings on the site have already begun.

Now, though, with Ashford College pushing ahead with plans for its campus on the corner opposite the station, the way is now clear to really cash in.

Jo James, chief executive of the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, said of the new Elwick Road approval: "Developments like this are needed in our town centres. It will create many welcome jobs both in the construction of the buildings and for those who will work in them.

"It is another good sign that the economy is improving and is a great sign for Ashford."

Plenty of thought seems to have gone into the appearance. The report before members said: "In terms of materials, the cinema building would be clad in a gold coloured, anodised aluminium mesh shaped to wrap the building from the first floor, and also shaped in sections to curve around the cinema building," adding they would "appear opaque during the day, with a greater sense of translucence as the evening draws in and the light drops, allowing lighting projections to be seen on the back drop of a black composite board cladding which sits behind the mesh".

Major changes to trains this Christmas 24 December - 3 January

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Just how did deaf school collapse after 230 years?

Parents' and staff sorrow at sudden closure of specialist school and college. **Chris Murphy** looks at what went wrong

SHUT: Hundreds of staff have lost their job as both school and college closes for the final time

IN 1792 the Royal School for Deaf Children in Margate opened its doors for the very first time.

On Friday, December 11 2015, it shut them for what seems set to be the final time.

In its wake, it put hundreds of staff out of work and left parents devastated as their children - so reliant on the school for its specialised teaching methods - faced up to having to find alternative provision elsewhere.

The school comprises a number of different parts – offering both residential and day care; becoming a home for many.

The facilities on offer included specialist therapy rooms, a sensory garden and a fully equipped medical centre.

In addition, it operated Westgate College, providing services for youngsters – including those with disabilities – aged 19-22.

Operated by the registered charity the John Townsend Trust, it employed some 525 staff, and also ran Monkshill Farm education site in Faversham, closed and sold off earlier this year; a number of charity shops, training and community living services.

But a string of significant stumbling blocks, which include an ongoing investigation into allegations of abuse of an adult at Westgate College, saw it crumble and the trust dragged into administration.

Brian Gale, from the National Deaf Children's Society, said: "Having Margate has been a lifeline for parents around the country. The school closing is having that lifeline taken away."

The key problem was financial.

A steady decline in the number of pupils being referred had meant a corresponding drop in income to fund its specialist care provision.

By the summer it admitted it had to make savings of some £650,000 and made 20 staff redundant and enforced a pay cut across the board. It vowed then the school's future was not in doubt.

But while school numbers were struggling, the issues at Westgate College were growing.

In November 2014, the Care Quality Commission – the independent regulator of health and social care - investigated allegations of abuse of an adult. Police this week confirmed an investigation over neglect, theft and fraud was ongoing.

Then, in November of this year, the CQC returned and took "urgent enforcement action" to limit the services which could be provided at Westgate College.

It exacerbated the financial situation and ultimately left the trust unable to operate, dragging the school down with it.

The trust called in the administrators but they could find no route out of the financial crisis and instructed the whole school be closed immediately.

A skeleton staff of some 140 remain in order to provide care for those who live on the site and require intensive, round-the-clock treatment and to help with relocations.

But their contracts will be terminated early in the new year.

The announcement on December 11 led to traumatic scenes at the gates with parents, children, young adults and indeed staff in tears.

An online petition calling on Kent County Council, which had no involvement in the running of the school, to step in and save the school has since been signed by more than 21,000 people.

Bradley Sargeant set the petition up. He worked at the school as a dual support assistant working with children and young people and wants to see a cash injection from somewhere and a new management team to reopen the facilities, taking on the highly specialised staff once more.

He is aware of the allegations of abuse in the adult section of the school, and he said the partial closure ordered by the CQC was like knocking down the first domino in a line.

He told us: "Abuse is not the right word for it. As far as I understand, the school was extremely confident of winning an appeal against the closure of that section.

"My understanding is the CQC never came back to inspect the improvements made and so they closed them down without warning which obviously led to the trust deciding it was not viable."

But it was the CQC report on the care facilities – not the school itself - which caused such problems.

> **"As far as I understand, the school was extremely confident of winning an appeal against the closure... but the CQC never came back to inspect it and it closed it down without warning"**
>
> **Bradley Sargeant,**
> Former staff member

Deborah Westhead is the deputy chief inspector of adult social care and registration at the CQC.

She said: "Following serious safeguarding concerns, we took urgent action to close the accommodation services at Westgate College and the Road Project [Realising Opportunities and Achievements of Deaf people] run by the John Townsend Trust, in the best interests of people's safety.

"Our inspectors found evidence of significant concern, which we are unable to comment on until the legal process is complete. I understand how distressing this is for residents at the college, and their families, but the quality and safety of care that was being provided here was so worrying that it was essential for us to use our toughest enforcement powers so that people could be best protected from harm.

"We have subsequently been informed that the Royal School for Deaf Children in Margate has now been placed into administration. CQC is not responsible for the regulation of the school itself and CQC has taken no action in relation to the educational department. Any question regarding the financial management of the school should be referred to the administrators.

"We will continue to work closely with Kent County Council and Kent Police to support their investigations."

In its report on the trust published last December, the CQC said: "People were not safeguarded against the risk of abuse because the provider had not taken reasonable steps to identify the possibility of abuse and prevent it before it occurred and had not responded appropriately to any allegations of abuse."

And it added: "The provider had not taken steps to protect people from abuse."

All calls put into the trust are now channelled to administrators FRP Advisory.

Speaking about the wider financial situation, it said it was liaising with the senior management team at the trust.

They said about 35 staff will be retained to provide services for the six remaining children who receive 52 weeks a year of residential care, and around 105 further staff will be retained to provide services for adult residential care, adult day services, and supported living services.

The viability of the trust's charity shops in Herne Bay, Birchington, Ramsgate and Margate are still being assessed, while their Blue Wave hydrotherapy pool and gym complex are presently operating normally.

Joint administrator Geoff Rowley, partner at FRP, said: "The difficult decisions taken to close the Royal School for Deaf Children, Westgate College and associated educational services alongside a managed closure of residential operations over the coming weeks, will all have a significant impact on the many children, young adults, their families and the wider community which these all serve."

But, ultimately, it is the children most in need who will pay the highest price.

One parent, whose teenage son attended the school, but didn't want to be named, told us: "We are aware of these abuse allegations, but that does not mean we will not continue the fight to see this school open once again.

"It has done so much great work for so many."

A spokesman for Kent County Council said it had become aware of the financial difficulties in the summer and extended assistance in terms of securing a loan to keep it afloat.

A spokesman said: "The school was originally built to meet the needs of children who were deaf. Over time, the number of learners has significantly declined. There are fewer pupils and they have complex additional needs, for example severe learning difficulties and multi-sensory impairments. Many purely deaf children are now in mainstream with cochlear implants.

"The roll of the school has declined over the years, and had the current crisis not occurred it is likely that the school's long term viability would have been in question anyway as funding is so closely tied to pupil numbers, as with any school.

"Kent has 14 compulsory aged pupils in the school, out of a total of, we understand, around 55, and six more in the sixth form. We have contacted the Kent Association of Special Schools (KASS) who have responded very positively to our initial contact to be involved in identifying forward pathways for Kent children at the school."

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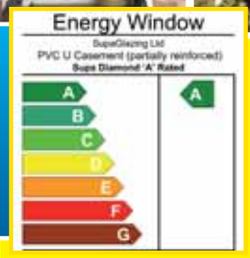

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Empowering a princess: The hotel with a regal pedigree

From accommodating the future Queen Victoria as she suffered from typhoid to appearing on TV show Hotel Inspector. **Chris Britcher** takes a trip to meet the couple behind the revived, and now flourishing, Albion House Hotel in Ramsgate...

A LITTLE over a year ago, Ben and Emma Irvine were at breaking point.

The two 30-somethings had taken on an almighty challenge; the complete renovation of a derelict building with a vision to transform it into a high-class hotel.

Perched on East Cliff in Ramsgate, and looking down over the seaside town's marina, it was drenched in history; laying claim to a pivotal moment in the life of Queen Victoria, just two years before she ascended to the throne, and as she suffered from a suspected case of typhoid.

There is also apparently a hidden tunnel which runs beneath the hotel and down on to the beach which allowed the then-young princess to take a dip without attracting attention.

It was owned by a pioneering architect, a former prime minister and the Jewish philanthropist Moses Montefiore was a regular visitor.

Grade II-listed, it had needed to be completely gutted – almost all the original features crumbling under previous occupants – and was comfortably galloping over budget.

To complicate matters, neither had any experience in the catering industry.

"It got extremely stressful," Mr Irvine, 38, who grew up in Gravesend, admits. "The final stages of the building work was a bit like SAS training – after all the physical exertion at the end they try to break you mentally – that was what it felt like."

Channel 5's Hotel Inspector programme could not resist filming the mayhem. Expert Alex Polizzi, whose blood pumps with the genes of hoteliers through the ages, came down for four of the eight days filming to offer valuable advice.

"She really was great," explains Mrs Irvine, 37, who originally hails from Dublin. "We were in a tricky place, trying to get the building work finished, and she said 'this is really stressful now... but it gets so much harder'. And she was right."

Adds Mr Irvine: "We were trying to get a hotel, restaurant and bar all opened on the same day, but once you get it going it's like dropping a ball down a mountain - you just can't stop it."

Yet today things are very different indeed. The whirlwind has calmed – a little if not completely – and the business is now establishing a name for itself.

Particularly for its remarkable history and how its fortunes appear to be mirroring the hopes and aspirations of the town itself.

Mrs Irvine explains: "The thing about Ramsgate, over the years, has been its ups and downs.

"When this building was built in the 18th century it was packed and at the peak of its glory. Then society changed and it dipped. Then, in the 1950s and 60s, it rose again, then budget holidays came in and it declined again.

"Now we're seeing it rising again to reflect the different way people are living their lives; people can work remotely, they want get-aways. They want to live by the sea.

"I think with Ramsgate and seaside towns in general, they don't need more attractions they just need people living here with money to spend."

Albion House was built in 1791; originally as a lodge which could be hired for the season by the aristocracy. They would come down for months at a time to take in the sea air; their servants working in the scullery.

Previous owners include pioneering British architect Mary Townley, and twice prime minster the Duke of Portland (they have a cocktail named after him in the bar today, the 'Two-Timer').

They are still trying to establish the likelihood that Montefiore spent his honeymoon in the building.

But it is the visit of Princess Victoria in 1835, at the age of 15, which remains so compelling.

Mr Irvine explains: "Princess Victoria, soon to become Queen Victoria, rested in Albion House for six months attempting to overcome what is widely believed to be typhoid or the strains borne from touring the country.

"Sir John Conroy, the private secretary of Princess Victoria's mother, the Duchess of Kent, sought to seize upon Princess Victoria's weakness and force her to sign papers making him her private secretary giving him wider powers at the side of the future Queen when she became monarch. It was here, on her sick bed, Princess Victoria resisted, refusing to sign and it was here Princess Victoria showed a determination and strength of will which saw her go on to become the most significant monarch in British history.

"I think it demonstrated that even at just 15 she had this remarkable backbone."

For more than 100 years – thought to be all of the 20th century – it was the home of Ramsgate Town Council and the offices of the town's mayor.

In the cellar today remains a large wooden

TRANSFORMED: A blue plaque marks the venue Princess Victoria stayed in and showed the "back bone" which would make her such a formidable queen. Ben and Emma Irvine, left, and Hotel Inspector star Alex Polizzi, right.

board bearing the names of dozens of mayors. And it's not the only relic from that era which survives.

The bar is the mayor's bench – with the ink wells which lined it still visible for those who sit there.

Yet for three years before they picked up the keys it had been empty.

"It was derelict," explains Mr Irvine. "It was an old office building, upstairs had the mayor's office and parlour and what is now the bar was the council chamber. There they would sit and discuss matters of the town."

Adds Mrs Irvine: "Everything was mint green; there were water leaks everywhere, it was dark and damp, but overall structurally sound and good enough for us."

Mrs Irvine is an architect by trade – formerly working for successful developers in London and Dublin. After getting engaged to Ben the couple looked to invest in the property market.

Alerted to Ramsgate by friends, she fell in love with the town on her first visit and the couple quickly found a flat to live in.

They started by investing in buy-to-let holiday houses – which they still run today, with some 25 under their umbrella – and then spotted Albion House.

Explains Mrs Irvine: "We weren't looking for a hotel, but after we met our business partners, Gay and John Haines, we thought about holiday letting.

"We started with very little capital so did holiday lets for three years.

"But one day I drove past this place and said to John it was so sad to see that building sat there derelict."

The result was the Haines bought the freehold of the property – which the Irvines then rent, allowing them to run and own the hotel business they operate.

Today, the building has been beau-

tifully restored. The decor is soft, yet striking, fixtures and fittings shout quality and the design is clearly co-ordinated.

However, there remains little of the original features.

Mr Irvine explains: "The old council had put a big steel structure throughout the building and destroyed much of the original features. We were left with no choice but to rip pretty much everything out. We stripped 20 tonnes of steel as part of the renovation."

One of many listed properties in a seaside town which boasts so many, Ramsgate has struggled to fully push the regeneration button. Yet.

The Albion House Hotel, however, is a significant player in that regeneration.

Costing some £1.5m to renovate, funding was achieved through Kent County Council's Expansion East Kent scheme and the Irvines have nothing but praise for the authority and its efficiency.

Ramsgate, however, may prove a tricky nut to crack.

Overshadowed by its neighbours – the ever popular Broadstairs – and the remarkable affinity held by so many for Margate – it may find itself at the bottom of the three main Thanet towns' revival.

Yet, of course, it has so much going for it. The architecture, the history, the marina; it is already showing the green shoots of recovery, and with property prices competitive compared with many other areas in the county, the Londoner looking to get more bang for his or her buck and have a place by the sea, is finding it increasingly attractive.

The dream, of course, is to do for Ramsgate what the day-tripper did for Whitstable a little further down along the north Kent coast - and that is to help inject first funds and then attract investment.

Whitstable's almost complete reversal took little more than 20 years... you wouldn't bet against Ramsgate following suit.

And the Irvines may be just the sort of people Ramsgate needs to attract – young, ambitious professionals with a desire to invest and to spend.

From their dealings with the holiday lets business, they were aware there was a demand for good quality accommodation.

Adds Mr Irvine: "When we spoke to Laura Sandys [former Tory South Thanet MP] at about the time of the Open in Sandwich, she said there was a real issue with a lack of quality hotel space in this area."

Mrs Irvine adds: "We had a DJ who used to work at Ministry of Sound who would spend £600 for two or three nights in our self-catering flats – we used to heavily weight the costs so it was more cost effective to rent it for the whole week. He paid a premium for that because he wanted a beautiful place rather than a hotel room. His motivation was his environment rather than what he was getting for his money.

"People who come here aren't motivated by price. Everyone is motivated by value but not the actual price."

After the chaos of the refurbishment, Ben and Emma say the days of 90-hour weeks are beginning to subside – primarily due to having hired an experienced general manager to take much of the day-to-day pressure off their shoulders.

So what next for the couple who admit they would do it again given half the chance.

"We don't know quite what will be next - perhaps a bowling alley?" they smirk... but after last time your wouldn't bet against them doing just that.

REFURB: The Irvines, right, the view from the hotel, right below, the mayor's old desk is now the bar, below, and the decor inside the Albion House Hotel, above.

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Road to fame and glory as movie map gets updated

Kent is becoming a back-drop for some of the biggest films and TV shows as directors flock to take advantage of our scenery and facilities. We take a look at just what has been shot where and why it is driving a major push for tourists

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

FILM and television directors are continuing to flock to the county as the perfect spot to shoot their latest big productions – prompting the county council to unveil its latest 'movie map'.

The online map provides users the chance to see what popular shows have been filmed where.

It boasts themed trails including ones dedicated to Jane Austen, James Bond, Charles Dickens, Darling Buds of May and The Other Boleyn Girl, with a special Tudor Trail to be released next year.

And it all adds up to millions of pounds flooding into the local economy as crews set up camp for the duration of their shooting schedule.

The latest additions include BBC Two drama London Spy, which features the Isle of Grain and the Dartford Crossing.

Kent County Council cabinet member for economic development Mark Dance said: "This map not only shows how popular Kent is as a filming location but shows future productions that Kent is open for business.

"We have some of the most wonderful locations in the country which can be utilised by film crews from the sweeping landscapes of Eagle Heights to the coastal coves of Botany Bay.

"Last year, filming in Kent brought in £6.9 million to the local economy and I look forward to seeing what future films and television programmes are shot in Kent."

Highlights of each district include:

Ashford:

The village of Chilham is a film favourite having been used as a film location for a multitude of projects including the BBC adaption of Emma (2009), Top Gear 50th Jaguar Special (2011) and Miss Marple – The Moving Finger (2006).

Age of Heroes (2011), the true story of James Bond creator Ian Fleming's time with the 30th Commando Unit also made use of the Ashford district, filming in Pluckley.

Canterbury:

The earliest filming in Canterbury, rather fittingly, dates back to the Michael Powell feature film version of Chaucer's classic novel, A Canterbury Tale (1944). Canterbury including the cathedral, Wickham-breaux Village and The Red Lion Inn in Wingham all feature throughout the film.

The latest production on the Movie Map in the Canterbury district is BBC One comedy series Boomers (2014), starring Russ Abbot, Stephanie Beacham, Alison Steadman and June Whitfield which used Herne Bay and Studd Hill as filming locations.

Dartford:

The Dartford Crossing briefly features for the dramatic chase where Hagrid and Harry are being ambushed by death eaters in the seventh instalment of the iconic film series Harry Potter, the Deathly Hallows – Part 1 (2010).

Dartford town was the setting for the Oscar winning short film, Wasp (2003), directed and written by Dartford-born Andrea Arnold.

Dover:

The English Heritage-managed Dover Castle is one of Kent's most popular filming locations having featured in productions such as Avengers: Age of Ultron (2015), Into The Woods (2015), Wolf Hall (2015) and The Other Boleyn Girl (2008).

The Dover coast, including the iconic White Cliffs of Dover, have featured in films such as Sherlock Holmes - A Game of Shadows (2011), On A Clear Day (2005) and TV dramas including Legacy (2013) and Poirot - The Clocks (2009).

Sandwich:

Discovery Park was used for Brad Pitt feature film World War Z (2013) and has provided both the production base and locations for both series of Sky Atlantic drama The Tunnel (2013).

Gravesham:

Private school Cobham Hall is another of Kent's screen gems and has been used for many productions including CBBC adaptation of Dame Jacqueline Wilson's popular children's novel Hetty Feather (2015), feature film Wild Child (2008) and BBC adaption of Dickens Bleak House (2005).

Gravesend has been used for filming by BBC One drama The Interceptor (2015), BBC adaption of Canterbury Tales - The Seacaptain's Tale (2003) and feature film starring John Mills, The Long Memory (1953).

Maidstone:

As well as being home to The Maidstone Studios which has attracted TV entertainments shows such as Take Me Out and Later... with Jools Holland, the Maidstone area has been seen on screen in productions such as EastEnders Easter special (2007) which filmed in Wormshill and Harrietsham, ITV drama Half Broken Things (2007) filmed at Boughton Monchelsea Place and Teston Bridge Country Parks, which also features in Dunkirk (1958).

Leeds Castle was chosen as a location for productions such as ITV drama Henry VIII (2003), Lady Jane (1986) which was Helena Bonham Carter's first leading role, feature film Henry VIII (1979) and Kind Hearts and Coronets (1949).

Medway:

The Historic Dockyard Chatham is another of Kent's in demand filming locations being chosen by feature films Mr Turner (2014), Les Miserables (2013) and Sherlock Holmes 1 & 2 (2009/2011) and TV dramas Call The Midwife (2012 - 2015), Mr Selfridge (2013 - 2015) and Oliver Twist (2007).

Also filmed in the Medway area were Black Sea (2014) starring Jude Law, which used the Black Widow submarine in Strood, BBC adaption of Dickens The Mystery of Edwin Drood (2012), which took advantage of Dickensian Kent and filmed at Rochester – Eastgate House, the castle and cathedral – as well as Riverside Country Park, while Fort Amherst appears in Val Kilmer thriller The Saint (1997).

Sevenoaks:

Penshurst Place is a very popular film location, having welcomed productions including BBC dramas Henry V - The Hollow Crown - No Surrender (2012) and Merlin (2008) plus films including To Kill a King (2003), The Princess Bride (1987) and Anne of a Thousand Days (1969).

The National Trust's Knole Park has been utilised for filming by Pirates of the Caribbean - On Stranger Tides (2011), Burke and Hare (2010), The Other Boleyn Girl (2008) which

SCENE: Dover Castle has been a regular location for filming

STRENGTH: Avengers: Age of Ultron shot scenes here

MAGIC: Part of Harry Potter was filmed in the Dartford tunnel

BOND: Die Another Day filmed at Manston

MAJESTY: Canterbury Cathedral is a popular choice

also filmed at nearby Hever Castle, and even The Beatles music videos for Strawberry Fields Forever and Penny Lane (1967).

Shepway:

The area has attracted filming from projects such as drama series The Honourable Woman (2014), which used Romney Marshes, Saltwood Castle features in My Week With Marilyn (2011) and Michael Caine film Is Anybody There? (2009) filmed in Folkestone and Hythe.

The unique landscape at Dungeness has been used for filming by Ginger and Rosa (2012), Mike Leigh's All Or Nothing (2002) and Doctor Who: The Claws of Axos (1971).

Swale:

Channel 4 drama Southcliffe (2012) was set in Faversham and filmed at a variety of locations in the area including Oare Marshes, which were also used for Mike Newell's feature film adaption of Great Expectations (2012).

Swale has also starred in ITV's Jekyll and Hyde (2015), feature film The Hide (2008) who used Elmley Nature Reserve and The Sweeney (2012) which used the Isle of Sheppey for a dramatic car chase.

Thanet:

BBC One series True Love (2012) based the entire series in Thanet maximising the beautiful coast including Margate, the Turner Contemporary, Westgate-On-Sea, Cliftonville, Pegwell Bay, Botany Bay and Broadstairs.

SIDES: ITV's Jekyll and Hyde

DOCKYARD: Pirates of the Caribbean was shot in Chatham

HISTORY: The Other Boleyn Girl was filmed in Dover

FAME: David Tennant in Margate, and Jude Law and Robert Downey Jnr

The area has also been seen in productions such as ITV comedy Edge of Heaven (2014), Ricky Gervais Channel 4 show Derek (2013) which filmed in Broadstairs, Die Another Day (2002) with Pierce Brosnan as James Bond used the former Manston Airport site and the infamous Only Fools and Horses: The Jolly Boys' Outing (1989) episode featuring Margate.

Tonbridge and Malling:

Channel 4 drama Cape Wrath (2007) was set at the new housing development at Leybourne Lakes and also used Kings Hill.

The town of Tonbridge featured in crime drama Missing series 2 (2010), with Aylesford appearing in Half a Sixpence (1967) and RAF West Malling Airstrip, which is now Kings Hill, was used for The Beatles - Magical Mystery Tour (1967).

Tunbridge Wells:

The film adaptation of Jane Austen's novel Pride and Prejudice (2005), starring Keira Knightley, Brenda Blethyn, Matthew Macfadyen and Judi Dench was largely filmed at Groombridge Place, which was also a film location for The Draughtsman's Contract (1982).

BBC spy drama Hunted (2012) also filmed in the area at Scotney Castle Garden and estate and a French and Saunders Pride and Prejudice sketch (1996) utilised country estate Finchcocks.

Gabrielle Lindemann from the Kent County Council Film Office said "The completion of the Movie Map is a great achievement for us and shows how popular Kent is as a filming location.

"The county can boast a very diverse range of locations we can offer to production complemented by the Kent Film Office services and, above all, the welcome extended by many local communities and facilities.

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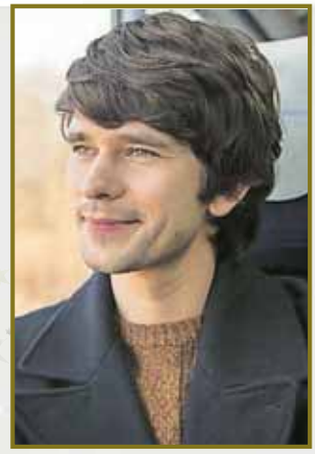
SERIES: The Darling Buds of May house in Pluckley, and Southcliffe



STARS: EastEnders, left, London Spy, right and The Tunnel, below

"Last financial year production spend in Kent totalled £6.9m and we hope to continue the trend and attract many more productions to the county we can add to our movie map."

Sinead Hanna, PR manager of Visit Kent, champions for tourism in the county, said: "Film tourism is a wonderful way to connect visitors to our landscape, our attractions and our people, and we actively encourage all Kent attractions, venues and locations to promote their links to the big and small screen to visitors.

"National research shows that eight out of ten tourists are influenced by films and TV when making travel plans, and the new movie map will be a fantastic resource for domestic and international visitors.

"Kent Film Office does a wonderful job of attracting and welcoming film and TV crews to our county, and we are delighted to see them showcasing the county's cinematic successes in this map."

Ben Thomas, general manager at Penshurst Place and Gardens said: "We are very fortunate at Penshurst Place to have been used as a filming location for a number of blockbuster film and hit TV productions.

"The historic backdrop, largely unchanged for 670 years combines with the warmth of a much-loved family home, to provide a plethora of special filming opportunity.

"From the Baron's Hall built in 1341 and featured in Merlin through to the Long Gallery, the setting for much of hit TV drama Wolf Hall, the location has nooks and crannies covering every decade for 600 years.

"We are told by the film makers that visit us that it is this sense of history and informality that really sets the location apart. Also, being privately owned means we have the flexibility to meet the requirements of each individual production.

"We are very grateful to the Kent Film Office. It is a valuable asset for the county and has been hugely helpful in working with us to attract location scouts and film productions to Penshurst Place.

"Its promotion of Kent as an excellent film location that is not too far from London ensures our beautiful county continues to be showcased in film and TV.

"The popularity of Kent as a filming location is clearly evident when viewing the newly launched interactive film location map."

Harvey Edgington, head of filming and locations at the National Trust said: "From the awe-inspiring White Cliffs of Dover, which recently appeared in SKY's crime drama The Tunnel to the great 17th century house at Knole, which famously doubled up as Tudor London in The Other Boleyn Girl, the National Trust cares for a wealth of unique locations in Kent.

"We're delighted to see so many National Trust places featured on Kent's movie map and hope that lovers of the small and big screen will be inspired to follow in the footsteps of the stars to discover these special places."

Offering a range of services to the film and TV industry, the Kent County Council Film Office supporting productions by a location finding and research service, obtaining film permits, and sorting out traffic management, as well as sourcing local crew and trainees and mediating any disputes.

The Kent County Council Film Office has been running since 2006 and has helped with 5,559 filming days which has brought in an estimated £40.4m to the local economy.

To visit the map, visit www.kenfilmoffice.co.uk.

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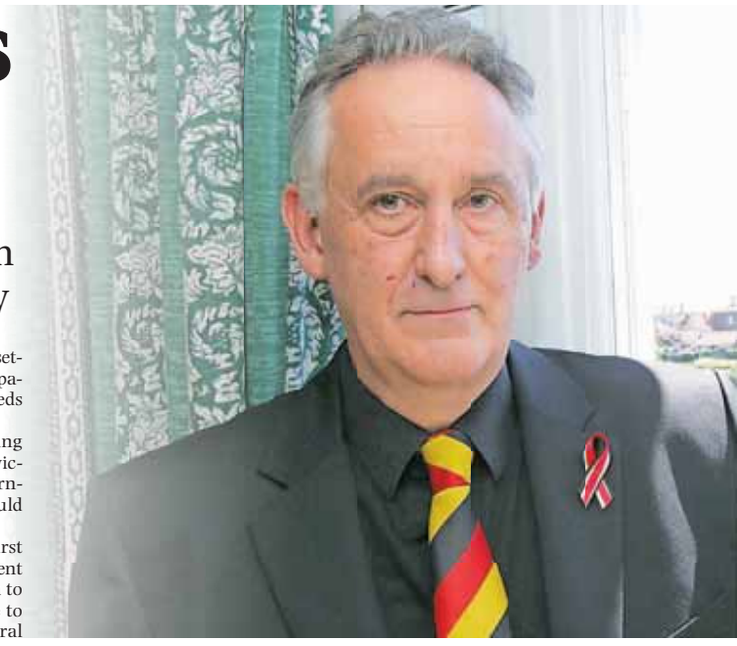
Blood scandal victims refuse to give up fight

Another set-back in the pursuit of justice, but public health minister vows contamination consultation will be in January



By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

VICTIMS of the blood contamination scandal have once again slammed the government for failing to progress plans for a consultation and compensation package for those affected.

It had been hoped details of funds set aside would be announced during chancellor George Osborne's spending review.

But there was no mention of any dedicated funding, leaving those survivors from the appalling health blunder to nurse yet another blow to their hopes of justice.

However, on Wednesday, public health minister Jane Ellison told the House of Commons a 12-week consultation will begin in January – and apologised for the delays but said pushing it into the new year was essential "to ensure we get it right".

One of the most vocal campaigners has been Broadstairs' Steve Dymond. Born with haemophilia – a condition which prevents the blood from clotting property – he was, like many others with the condition, treated by a range of blood products during the 1970s and 80s.

In particular was a product called Factor VIII, which was taken to help the blood clot. However, it was sourced from a range of donors including prisoners and drug addicts in the US.

With no suitable checks in place on the blood by the NHS, many sufferers found themselves infected with the likes of HIV or heptatis C.

It is thought more than 7,500 people were infected – some 2,000 of whom have since died as a result.

For many of those who did survive, they have seen their lives derailed by health problems.

Mr Dymond, 59, saw his career as a teacher ruined as he found himself struggling with hep C which affects the liver.

Unable to have children amid fears over his health, he and his wife Su have been forced to move into his elderly mother-in-law's home.

In addition, in the last couple of weeks he has suffered a cancer setback which due to the impact of hepatitis C on his liver means he now needs a transplant.

Earlier this year, amid mounting pressure and publicity for the victims, it had been hoped the government under David Cameron would finally right the terrible wrongs.

In March, the PM made the first ever apology from the government for the scandal and pledged £25m to help aid those affected with more to be announced after May's general election,

But so far the £25m has not been forthcoming and, in July, the government delayed any further announcement until after the spending review.

The silence during that announcement has made victims doubt all previous promises.

A consultation had been expected to be announced before Christmas, but public health minister Jane Ellison said she was disappointed to push it back into January.

Mr Dymond, who was mentioned during this week's debate in the House of Commons, told KoS it was just the latest delay.

He said: "What was sold in July to victims of the contaminated blood scandal as a 'full and open consultation' with the Department of Health moving with speed to complete an eight-week 'first time ever' consultation process and reporting on a resolution before Christmas to this 30-year saga of needless suffering for so many, has yet to emerge from darkening skies.

"In a week when the prognosis for my liver damage suddenly became significantly worse - chemotherapy and the prospect of a transplant are the only gifts in Santa's sack for us this year - witnessing the perpetual acts of prevarication by Jane Ellison and her officials to put off bringing resolution to this most horrific of NHS treatment disasters, brought to mind the hopelessness and pointlessness of the labours of Sisyphus [Greek myth where he was punished by pushing a rock up a mountain only for it to roll back down and the process repeated over and over again]."

Of particular concern is just where the deserved compensation money –

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FIGHTING: Steve Dymond from Broadstairs continues to battle for justice in the long-running scandal

should the situation ever be resolved – will actually come from.

What victims have long wanted to avoid was being seen to take funding from NHS coffers.

Adds Mr Dymond: "In his autumn statement, the chancellor was forced to pour an additional £8bn into the NHS simply to keep services functioning.

"How will there be any ring-fenced funding available for the victims of contaminated blood when the NHS continues to be in such dire financial straits? Thus forcing victims of contaminated blood into a unseemly bidding war for compensation with many other pressing needs within the NHS. It is hard to imagine such cruelty to a small beleaguered community."

The only inquiry into the scandal took place between 2007 and 2009 by Lord Archer who described it as an "horrific human tragedy".

BLOW: George Osborne, left, let down many by not mentioning any cash for compensation payments in the autumn statement

KOS CONTINUES TO FIGHT FOR JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS

KENT on Sunday has been – and remains – a staunch supporter of those whose lives have been blighted by this most remarkable and disgraceful of scandals.

That the NHS handed out these contaminated blood products to those already suffering with haemophilia was horrendous enough. To still not have confronted the issue and fast-tracked a compensation package in line with the pain and suffering it has caused to both the victims and those so many have left behind, is baffling.

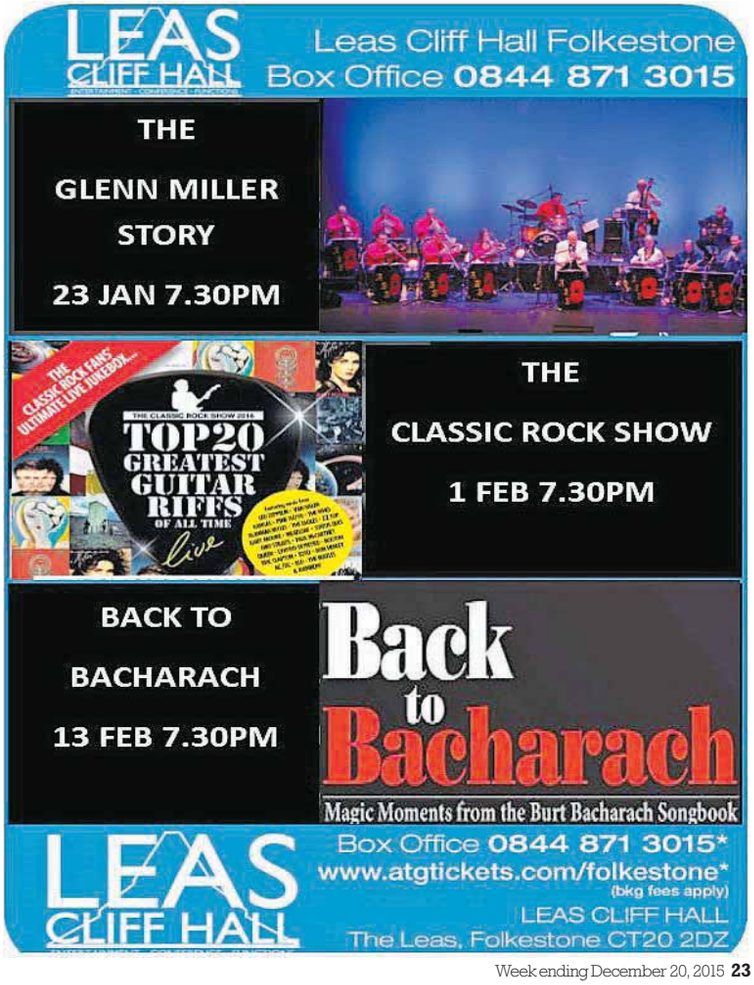
After so much optimism earlier in the year that a resolution was finally on the horizon, it is easy to feel it is so far down the list of priorities that without continued publicity and pressure it may drop off again.

And for many, already suffering for so long, any significant delay may simply come, tragically, too late.

Therefore we will continue to highlight the issue as we go into 2016 and continue to ensure it doesn't fall off the radar.

There is no doubt the NHS is under financial pressure and there is no doubt any compensation should not come at the expense of health care services. But the government has a responsibility to right a wrong from the past, and for those victims not to feel bad for receiving money to compensate for the enormous impact it has had on their lives.

It's easy to think they are a small number, but their voice is loud and we will continue to ensure it is heard.



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YOUR MUST-SEE TV GUIDE

16 PAGES

Christmas Presents

What's the best television? Elementary, my dear Watson

The End

Festive finale for Downton Abbey

Crackers

Family shows with Doctor Who, Strictly, Stick Man and more

Full listings: Dec 24-Jan 1

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BAFTA CELEBRATES DOWNTON ABBEY
December 21, ITV, 9pm

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts honours Downton with a Special Award. Hosted by Jonathan Ross, this celebration is being held in the Richmond Theatre.

The evening promises to provide the definitive insight into the acclaimed drama series, with cast and crew offering some very personal observations. Dame Maggie Smith and Hugh Bonneville perform a specially written sketch, and Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, whose performance as Dame Nellie Melba singing O Mio Babbino Caro in the fourth series reportedly reduced some of the cast and crew to tears, will be on stage.

Julian Ovenden, who played Charles Blake in series five, will also perform. Dan Stevens, who played the doomed Matthew Crawley in series three, also returns for a reunion with his old colleagues.

Downton the finale

Gather your families and grab your hankies – the last ever episode of Downton Abbey is on Christmas Day. To celebrate, **Keeley Bolger** pays her respects to the period drama.

It's been something of a long goodbye. Ever since March this year, we've known that this series of Downton Abbey would be the last (that is unless the rumours of a spin-off film come good...) But before we bid adieu to those upstairs and downstairs, there is of course a Christmas Day special.

As ever, the programme-makers are keeping mum on the major plots lines in the grand festive farewell, but what we do know is that the episode will see Mary (Michelle Dockery) trying to build bridges with her sister Edith (Laura Carmichael) following their showdown in the penultimate episode.

Elsewhere, Henry (Matthew Goode) is settling into his new role as husband to Mary and stepfather to her son, George, but is struggling to find his place at Downton; Carson the butler (Jim Carter) is facing some personal challenges; actors Lily James and Matt Barber return as Lady Rose and Atticus Aldridge, while Miranda actress Patricia Hodge makes a guest appearance as Bertie Pelham's mum.

But if this isn't enough Downton to see you through, ITV are screening a special Bafta Celebrates Downton Abbey.

To pay our own respects, we look back on the six series and pull together some on-set secrets...

- Before the series was given the green light in 2010, Fellowes had to fight to call it Downton Abbey "because the public might think it was about monks".
- Events from Fellowes' own life inspired the drama. Among them are the deaths of his grandfather and uncle in the First World War, and a relationship he had in his youth with a Jewish beau.
- Before plumping for Highclere Castle in Berkshire, location scouts had looked at 40 other options for the main house.
- While the upstairs scenes are filmed at the opulent Highclere, the servants' scenes all take place in Ealing Studios, and the

DOWNTON ABBEY
Christmas Day, ITV, 8.45pm

WE'RE DOOMED: THE MAKING OF DAD'S ARMY
December 22, BBC2, 9pm

The dramatised story of how Jimmy Perry and David Croft overcame BBC management scepticism, focus groups and cast constipation to get the much-loved series onto air. Running from Perry's initial idea in 1967 until the transmission of the first episode in 1968, this affectionate and witty film shows the beginnings of Perry and Croft's writing partnership and the casting woes, personal clashes and production difficulties that put the show's very existence in jeopardy. It reveals to fans and newcomers alike what went on behind the scenes in the making of Dad's Army and is a true love letter to British creativity. The cast includes Paul Ritter as Perry, Richard Dormer as Croft, with John Sessions to play Arthur Lowe, Julian Sands as John Le Mesurier, Mark Heap as Clive Dunn and Shane Richie to play Bill Pertwee.

CALL THE MIDWIFE
Christmas Day, BBC1, 7.30pm

As celebrations swing into action, Poplar readies itself for Christmas 1960; a festive bus trip to see the Regent Street lights and a visit from a BBC film crew promise to make it a Christmas to remember. But it's a difficult time of year for grieving mother Iris, bringing back memories of her long-departed baby daughter. And at Nonnatus, things are tense as Sister Monica Joan determines to bring the Christmas spirit early, despite Sister Evangelina's disgust. As the community pull together to prepare for the televised carol concert, Nonnatus is rocked when Sister Monica Joan goes missing.

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village-based segments are done in Bampton, Oxfordshire.

❄ In addition to any bought pieces, the wardrobe team made 251 costumes for series six alone, to ensure the ladies of the house were true to the Edwardian era.

❄ The make-up team has crafted more than 1,000 wigs since the series began.

❄ During the making of the first series, Bonneville was given a special brown towelling robe. On the back, it has a now faded sign saying: "Hugh's the daddy."

❄ Downton has been a launchpad for many of its young stars: Dan Stevens, Jessica Brown Findlay and Lily James.

❄ Those popping up in cameo appearances have included Nigel Havers, James Fox, Theo James, Tim Pigott-Smith, Paul Giamatti, Shirley MacLaine and Richard E. Grant.

❄ Downton is the highest rating UK drama of the past decade across any channel, and holds a Guinness World Record for the highest critical ratings. It's also the most nominated British show in EMMY history with 59 nominations and 12 wins.

STILL OPEN ALL HOURS

Boxing Day, BBC1, 8pm

Sir David Jason returns for a second series as Granville, who has inherited the corner shop from his beloved but miserly uncle Arkwright. Now running the business with his son, Leroy, Granville continues to serve the local community with a keen eye on a profit. There are some familiar and new faces: Nurse Gladys Emmanuel and Mrs Featherstone return along with Granville's never-quite-declared old flame Mavis. It's Christmas at Arkwright's, and Granville has his eye on a tree, which gives him more than he bargained for. Nurse Gladys gossips with Mrs Featherstone about tactics for her new job, and Eric and Cyril embark on a new fitness plan to impress their wives. Meanwhile, as Granville plans a cosy festive drinks party, can he and Gastric tempt Madge into the Christmas spirit?

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ChristmasEve

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. (S) 912291 **9.00 David Suchet: In the Footsteps of St Paul.** (R) (S) 40095 **10.00 On Angel Wings.** (R) (S) 65279

10.30 FILM: The Santa Clause (1994) Fantasy comedy, starring Tim Allen. (S) 81786

12.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) (S) 31163

1.00 BBC News at One; Weather. (S) 27957989

1.10 BBC Regional News. (S) 27736724

1.20 Snow Chick: A Penguin's Tale. (R) (S) 1449144

2.20 FILM: A Christmas Carol (2009) Animated fantasy, starring Jim Carrey. (S) 3557892

3.50 FILM: Finding Nemo (2003) Animated adventure, with the voice of Albert Brooks. (S) 5073219

5.20 Harry Hill in Professor Branestawm Returns. (S) 6464881

6.20 BBC News. (S) 801540

6.30 BBC Regional News. (S) 409366

6.40 Celebrity Mastermind. Radzi Chinyanganya, Badly Drawn Boy, Rebecca Root and Kriss Akabusi answer questions on The Office, Bruce Springsteen, the novels of Graham Greene and West Ham United. (S) 152786

7.10 Pointless Celebrities Christmas Special. Featuring Jeffrey Holland and Su Pollard, Alison Hammond and Robin Windsor, and Colin Baker and Louise Jameson. Plus, Kim Wilde joins Alexander Armstrong for a duet. (S) 431892

8.00 Would I Lie to You? At Christmas. With Bill Bailey, Ruth Jones, Jo Brand and Kelly Holmes. (S) 2366

8.30 EastEnders. Stacey goes into labour during the nativity play, Ronnie is forced to choose a side between Vincent and Phil, and Sharon drops a bombshell that threatens to tear the Beales apart. (S) 215366

9.05 Peter Kay: 20 Years of Funny. A celebration of the Bolton comedian's two decades in the business, going back to his early days before stardom and hearing from friends and colleagues about what makes him tick. (S) 880960

10.05 Walliams and Friend. David Walliams and Joanna Lumley star in this sketch show, with Morgana Robinson (House of Fools) and Mike Wozniak (Man Down). Co-written by David and the Dawson Bros. (S) 498279

10.45 Not Going Out. An unexpected visitor turns Lee and Lucy's Christmas Eve upside down. (S) 423237

11.30 BBC News; (S) Weather. (S) 959582

11.45 Midnight Mass from St George's Cathedral, Southwark. Live service from south London. (S) 225415

1.00 FILM: Serendipity (2001) Romantic drama. (S) 3978854

2.25 Weather for the Week Ahead. (S) 5468729 **2.30 BBC News.** (S) 3718458

BBC2

6.20 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) (S) 3712366 **7.20 James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas.** (R) (S) 1612908 **8.05 Sign Zone: This Wild Life.** (R) (S) 5982786 **8.35 Sign Zone: Great British Menu.** (R) (S) 2867415

9.05 FILM: Bedknobs and Broomsticks (1971) Disney musical fantasy, starring Angela Lansbury. (S) 49396322

11.00 The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure. (R) (S) 80076 **12.00 Natural World.** (R) (S) 39705

1.00 FILM: Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit (1993) Comedy, starring Whoopi Goldberg. (S) 98483231

2.45 Perry and Croft: Made in Britain. (R) (S) 357892

3.15 The Snow Wolf Family and Me. (R) (S) 338927

4.15 The Snow Wolf Family and Me. (R) (S) 304095

5.15 Carols from King's. (S) 1942095

6.30 To the Manor Born. (R) (S) 637

7.00 Dad's Army. Mainwaring finds himself bidding against Pike for an orange at a fundraising bazaar, but the private reveals a stubborn streak that costs the captain dear. (R) (S) 4960

7.30 Christmas University Challenge. Graduates from Exeter University and Magdalen College, Oxford, compete, with wildlife presenter Nick Baker and documentary-maker Louis Theroux among the contestants. (S) 521

8.00 MasterChef: The Professionals. The three finalists have three hours to cook a starter, a main course and a dessert, before one of them is crowned Professional MasterChef Champion 2015. Last in the series. (S) 2453

9.00 The Great History Quiz: The Tudors. Kirsty Young asks the questions in this quiz which sees two teams of historians, captained by Lucy Worsley and Dan Snow, demonstrate their knowledge on all aspects of Tudor life. (S) 9989

10.00 The Scandalous Lady W. Fact-based period drama about an 18th-century noblewoman who found herself at the centre of a public scandal after eloping with her husband's best friend. (R) (S) 42453

11.30 FILM: Dial M for Murder (1954) A tennis player's plan to arrange the death of his socialite wife goes wrong when she kills her would-be assassin. Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, with Ray Milland. (S) 146796

1.10 Sign Zone: Simply Nigella: Christmas Special. (R) (S) 1390552 **2.10 Sign Zone: Christmas Shopping Fever 2015: John Lewis and the Retail Race.** (R) (S) 8027748 **3.10 Sign Zone: James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas.** (R) (S) 3215212 **3.55 This Is BBC Two.** (S) 40895583

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. (R) (S) 7132182 **6.15 Dino Dan.** (R) (S) 1122279 **6.25 Sooty.** (R) (S) 1102415 **6.40 Super 4.** (R) (S) 1863250 **7.00 Good Morning Britain.** (S) 60502 **8.30 Lorraine.** (S) 6840569 **9.25 Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas.** (R) (S) 7875569 **10.25 Pick Me!** (R) (S) 2042540

11.25 FILM: Back to the Future Part II (1989) Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Michael J Fox. (S) 40748298

1.30 ITV Lunchtime News; (S) Weather. (S) 67859163

1.45 FILM: Small Soldiers (1998) Children's adventure, with Kirsten Dunst. (S) 98109095

3.50 FILM: National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989) Comedy, starring Chevy Chase. (S) 265502

5.40 All Star Mr & Mrs. With Martine McCutcheon, Harry Redknapp and Gwyneth Strong. (R) (S) 9630540

6.45 ITV Evening News. (S) 429095

7.00 Emmerdale. Belle sees Zak and Joanie kissing and becomes determined to make her pay, while the warehouse robbery is on the news and Aaron's picture is in the paper. (S) 2601

8.00 Coronation Street. Fiz tells Tyrone that Hope might not be allowed home for Christmas and Lapland might have to wait. Meanwhile, Tracy confides in Todd that she thinks Robert is planning to propose. (S) 7434

8.30 The Abba Christmas Party. It seems that 32 years after they split up, Abba are more popular than ever. To celebrate their music, Paddy McGuinness hosts a festive party like no other, in which music and TV stars perform the Swedish band's greatest hits. Those taking to the stage are Susan Boyle, Alexandra Burke, Corrie's Shayne Ward and Catherine Tyldesley, Scouting for Girls, the Feeling and the cast of West End show Mamma Mia! There is also an interview with Bjorn Ulvaeus, reminiscing about how the band celebrated Christmas. (S) 4609415

9.45 Through the Christmas Keyhole. Keith Lemon has a festive rummage through the homes of three celebrities, challenging Stephen Mulhern, Claudia Winkleman and Jimmy Carr to guess their identities. Last in the series. (S) 664989

10.45 ITV News; (S) Weather. (S) 757724

11.00 Christmas Carols on ITV. Aled Jones joins the congregation of St Elisabeth's Church in Reddish, Stockport, for their Christmas Eve carol service, with performances by Collabro and soul singer Toni Green. (S) 98095

12.00 FILM: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) (S) 139854

1.40 Murder, She Wrote. (R) (S) 4211903 **2.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R) (S) 9017813 **3.15 ITV Nightscreen.** 507293

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Small Animal Hospital. (S) 2146160 **7.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) (S) 1116076 **7.20 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) (S) 1129540 **7.40 The Snowman.** (R) (S) 7213434 **8.05 Father Christmas.** (R) (S) 5900182 **8.35 The Simpsons.** (R) (S) 7725095

9.10 FILM: Animals United (2010) Animated comedy with the voice of James Corden. (S) 94234892

10.55 FILM: Horton Hears a Who! (2008) Animated comedy, featuring the voice of Jim Carrey. (S) 46270076

12.30 FILM: Stuart Little (1999) Comedy adventure, with the voice of Michael J Fox. (S) 27635434

2.10 Channel 4 News. (S) 43754182

2.15 FILM: It's a Wonderful Life (1946) Fantasy drama, starring James Stewart. (S) (bw) 76330873

4.55 The Snowman. (R) (S) 9419705 **5.25 The Snowman and the Snowdog.** (R) (S) 2751366

6.00 Hollyoaks. When Lockie hears about the explosion, he is suspicious of Cameron and threatens to go to the police. Elsewhere, the police search for Reenie and Lisa reveals her secret. (S) 20057

7.00 Jamie's Night Before Christmas. Jamie Oliver presents last-minute tips to help people improve their festive dishes, having surveyed thousands of Brits to find out what they fear most about cooking at Christmas. (S) 8873

8.00 My Crazy Christmas Lights. The phenomenon of competitive Christmas displays, where a passion for festive lights has seen neighbours trying to outdo each other for the most elaborate design. (S) 7521

9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Christmas Special. Jimmy Carr hosts another festive edition of the show, with some of the nation's top comedy stars joining team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson. (S) 4057

10.00 Rude Tube Christmas Cracker. Alex Zane presents 50 festive internet clips that have proved popular around the world, including a turkey with a boob job and an inventive Christmas tree decoration-remover. (S) 7144

11.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R) (S) 96637

12.00 The Inbetweeners. (R) (S) 7741212 **12.35 The Inbetweeners.** (R) (S) 3014854 **1.05 The Inbetweeners.** (R) (S) 9480903 **1.30 The Inbetweeners.** (R) (S) 58019 **2.00 Man Down Christmas Special.** (R) (S) 11125 **2.30 Man Down.** (R) (S) 6412583 **2.55 Man Down.** (R) (S) 6415670 **3.25 Embarrassing Bodies.** (R) (S) 6289854 **4.20 Benchmark.** (S) 1088670 **5.10 Kirstie's Handmade Treasures.** (R) (S) 9924800

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: The WotWots. (R) (S) 93699960 **6.10 Chloe's Closet.** (R) (S) 93613540 **6.20 Lily's Driftwood Bay.** (S) 93619724 **6.30 Fireman Sam.** (R) (S) 24670453 **6.40 Wissper.** (R) (S) 24676637 **6.50 Peppa Pig.** (R) (S) 68880182 **6.55 Pip Ahoy!** (R) (S) 68870705 **7.05 Little Princess.** (R) (S) 1130279 **7.15 Bob the Builder.** (S) 1110415 **7.30 Thomas & Friends.** (R) (S) 5169960 **7.45 Noddy in Toyland.** (R) (S) 6463618 **7.55 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) (S) 6452502 **8.05 Milkshake! Bop Box.** (R) (S) 9013279 **8.10 Peppa Pig.** (R) (S) 2063637 **8.15 Peppa Pig.** (R) (S) 2062908 **8.20 Wanda and the Alien.** (R) (S) 9018724 **8.30 Paw Patrol.** (R) (S) 7883908 **8.50 Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) (S) 7870908 **9.00 Toot the Tiny Tugboat.** (R) (S) 1524182 **9.10 Mr Men.** (R) (S) 4230231 **9.30 The Real Face of Santa Claus.** (S) 2060231

10.30 FILM: Gone with the Wind (1939) Epic romantic drama, starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable. (S) 26095231

2.45 FILM: The Dam Busters (1954) Fact-based Second World War drama, starring Michael Redgrave. (S) (bw) 24701989

5.15 5 News. (S) 25417057

5.20 FILM: Scrooge – A Christmas Carol (1951) Charles Dickens' fantasy, starring Alastair Sim. (S) (bw) 82740786

7.00 Christmas Makes You Laugh Out Loud. Iain Lee presents Christmas-themed videos that have taken the internet by storm in a seasonal special showcasing hilarious online clips with a festive twist; (S) 5 News Update. (S) 5431366

7.55 Frank Sinatra & Gene Kelly: Ol' Blue Eyes Is Back. A TV special from 1973. (S) 3322415

8.25 Happy Holidays with Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby. Christmas special from 1957; (S) 5 News Update. (S) 9010415

8.55 The Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show. Festive special from 1981, in which the duo perform vintage sketches and act as a backing group for Alvin Stardust. Featuring guest appearances by Ralph Richardson and Robert Hardy. (R) (S) 73430328

10.00 Christmas with the Double Acts. Festive fun with comedy double acts past and present. (S) 3371569

11.00 Morecambe & Wise Live! 1973. The duo's performance at Croydon's Fairfield Halls. (R) (S) 8811724

12.30 FILM: Scrooge – A Christmas Carol (1951) Charles Dickens' fantasy, starring Alastair Sim. (S) (bw) 1088748

2.15 SuperCasino. 1825583 **4.00 Michaela's Wild Challenge.** (R) (S) 18512361 **4.25 Divine Designs.** (R) (S) 57017361 **4.45 House Doctor.** (R) (S) 58569767

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ChristmasDay

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. (S) 407458 **9.00 Shrek the Halls.** (R) (S) 8093835 **9.20 Clangers.** (S) 1455380 **9.35 Danger Mouse: The Snowman Cometh.** (S) 3215767 **10.00 Christmas Day Service Live from Bath Abbey.** (S) 50537

11.00 FILM: The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause (2006) Christmas fantasy comedy sequel, starring Tim Allen. (S) 6070767

12.25 FILM: Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (2012) Animated comedy, with the voice of Ben Stiller. (S) 8033496

1.50 BBC News; (S) Weather. (S) 91869477

2.00 Top of the Pops Christmas. (S) 78125

3.00 The Queen's Christmas Broadcast 2015. (S) 4430019

3.10 FILM: Brave (2012) Premiere. Animated fantasy, with the voice of Kelly Macdonald. (S) 1217748

4.35 BBC News; (S) Weather. (S) 5245835

4.45 Stick Man. (S) 719767

5.15 Doctor Who. (S) 778670

6.15 Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Special 2015. Previous contestants Abbey Clancy, Alison Hammond, Cassidy Little, Harry Judd, Lisa Snowdon and Tom Chambers return to compete for the Silver Star trophy. (S) 1844835

7.30 Call the Midwife. As Poplar readies itself for Christmas 1960, a visit from a BBC film crew promises to make it a festive holiday to remember. However, it's a difficult time for grieving mother Iris. (S) 126274

8.45 EastEnders. Ian's hopes of a perfect Christmas fall apart when the Beales and Mitchells end up arguing, Stacey receives an unexpected visitor and Dean surprises Roxy with an engagement ring. (S) 287962

9.45 Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special. The doting mother's wish to have a safe and peaceful Christmas at home is frustrated at every turn. The first of two festive instalments, written by and starring Brendan O'Carroll. (S) 139903

10.25 Michael McIntyre's Big Christmas Show. With Dara O Briain, Dame Edna Everage, Ellie Goulding and Tom Jones. (S) 495106

11.25 BBC News; (S) Weather. (S) 812274

11.40 Love Came Down at Christmas. From St Alban's Church in Bristol; (S) National Lottery Update. (S) 775564

11.45 Comedy Bloopers. A selection of clips from the archives. (S) 983800

12.15 Not Going Out. (R) (S) 3955317

1.00 FILM: Surviving Christmas (2004) Comedy, starring Ben Affleck. (S) 3872626

2.25 Weather for the Week Ahead. (S) 5355201 **2.30 BBC News.** (S) 3605930

BBC2

6.00 FILM: The Road to El Dorado (2000) Animated adventure, with the voices of Kenneth Branagh and Kevin Kline. (S) 1204877

7.20 Galapagos – Islands of Change: Natural World. (R) (S) 9620670

8.20 FILM: Herbie Rides Again (1974) Disney comedy sequel, starring Helen Hayes. (S) 3735564

9.45 FILM: The Cat in the Hat (2003) Comedy fantasy, starring Mike Myers. (S) 9166583

11.00 Carols from King's. (R) (S) 5282458 **12.15 Climbed Every Mountain – The Story Behind The Sound of Music.** (R) (S) 793854 **1.15 The Good Life.** (R) (S) 731854

1.45 FILM: Frankenweenie (2012) Premiere. Animated fantasy, with the voice of Charlie Tahan. (S) (bw) 9049361

3.05 Tim Rice – A Life in Song. (R) (S) 3891854

4.35 FILM: Romeo & Juliet (2013) Premiere. Shakespeare's love story, with Douglas Booth and Hailee Steinfeld. (S) 18788835

6.20 Sign Zone: The Queen's Christmas Broadcast 2015. (R) (S) 273767

6.30 World's Sneakiest Animals. New series. The devious tactics and sneaky tricks that animals use to survive. (S) 20922

7.30 Dad's Army. Pompous Captain Mainwaring proves he is a softie at heart by organising a Christmas treat for the struggling senior citizens of Walmington-on-Sea. (R) (S) 670

8.00 The Two Ronnies: Christmas Show. Ronnie Barker and Ronnie Corbett in a special Christmas show of sketches, jokes and songs, with guests Peter Wyngarde and Patrick Troughton. Plus, music by Elaine Page. (R) (S) 614477

8.50 Darcey's Ballet Heroes. Former ballet dancer-turned-Strictly Come Dancing judge Darcey Bussell undertakes a very personal journey to meet the heroes and dancers who transformed male ballet. (S) 359038

9.50 QI. Stephen Fry conjures up some seasonal merriment with Jenny Eclair, Johnny Vegas and Bill Bailey supplementing the efforts of regular panellist Alan Davies. (S) 533632

10.20 We're Doomed!: The Dad's Army Story. Comedy drama about how Jimmy Perry and David Croft overcame BBC management scepticism and focus groups to get the sitcom Dad's Army on air. (R) (S) 494477

11.20 FILM: Gambit (2012) A put-upon art expert plans revenge on a millionaire by tricking him into buying a fake Monet painting. Comedy remake, starring Colin Firth. (S) 720274

12.40 FILM: The Trouble with Harry (1955) Black comedy, starring Edmund Gwenn. (S) 534797

2.20 This Is BBC Two. (S) 96969336

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. (R) (S) 1096800 **6.10 Dino Dan.** (R) (S) 7105038 **6.25 Sooty.** (R) (S) 1179187 **6.40 Sooty.** (R) (S) 7873380 **6.50 Oddbods.** (R) (S) 1630816 **7.00 Dino Dan.** (R) (S) 1194854 **7.15 Horrid Henry.** (R) (S) 4439632 **7.30 Horrid Henry.** (R) (S) 6865293 **7.45 Christmas: Chowder.** (R) (S) 7281835 **8.10 Almost Naked Animals.** (R) (S) 4833309 **8.25 Weekend at Christmas.** (S) 3995125

9.25 FILM: Santa Claus: The Movie (1985) Family fantasy adventure, starring Dudley Moore. (S) 46057922

11.30 FILM: Happy Feet (2006) Animated adventure, with the voice of Elijah Wood. (S) 31647274

1.35 Text Santa: One More Time. Choice moments from the recent TV charity appeal. (S) 9415941

2.45 ITV Lunchtime News; (S) Weather. (S) 1943293

3.00 The Queen. (S) 4425187

3.10 Cameraman to the Queen. (S) 4535980

4.10 Countrywise Winter Wonderland. (S) 1539816

5.00 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs at Christmas. The broadcaster spreads festive cheer at Battersea Dogs & Cats Home in London. (S) 4380

6.00 ITV Evening News; (S) Weather. (S) 292767

6.15 You've Been Framed! With Bells On. Camcorder clips with a festive theme, including a pensioner throwing fireworks at carol singers, a Christmas fairy going up in flames, and a smartphone found inside a turkey. (S) 612800

6.45 Emmerdale. Pollard finally leaves the house, and has an experience that forces him to confront his past, present and future. Coronation Street's Liz Dawn (Vera Duckworth) guest stars. (S) 753361

7.45 Coronation Street. Robert is about to propose to Tracy, but first he asks her a question that leaves her reeling. Meanwhile, Sinead is thrilled when she gets an engagement ring of her own. (S) 759545

8.45 Downton Abbey – The Finale. Mary endeavours to build bridges, but Edith's secret continues to pose a threat as Julian Fellowes bids farewell to the Crawleys with one last festive special. (S) 965699

10.45 Our Cilla. A celebration of Cilla Black by the people who knew her best, including famous faces such as Ringo Starr, Cliff Richard, Christopher Biggins and Paul O'Grady. (S) 582534

11.45 ITV News; (S) Weather. (S) 330800

12.00 FILM: Dr No (1962) James Bond spy thriller. (S) 957299

1.50 Murder, She Wrote. (R) (S) 9292572 **2.45 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R) (S) 6010978 **3.25 ITV Nightscreen.** 11915171

CHANNEL 4

6.45 Prep & Landing. (R) (S) 1837835 **7.05 Prep & Landing: Naughty v Nice.** (R) (S) 3138699 **7.30 The Bear.** (R) (S) 92293

8.00 FILM: A Turtle's Tale: Sammy's Adventures (2010) Animated adventure, with the voice of Dominic Cooper. (S) 93732800

9.40 The Simpsons. (R) (S) 3211941 **10.10 The Simpsons.** (R) (S) 7173187 **10.40 The Simpsons.** (R) (S) 1027632 **11.15 Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas.** (R) (S) 5015690 **11.40 Toy Story Toons.** (S) 5216580 **12.10 Father Christmas.** Seasonal animation based on Raymond Briggs' book. (R) (S) 3290651 **12.40 The Snowman.** Animated adventure, based on Raymond Briggs' festive tale. (R) (S) 1423106 **1.15 The Snowman and the Snowdog.** Animated sequel to classic festive tale The Snowman. (R) (S) 726922

1.45 FILM: The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992) Puppet comedy, starring Michael Caine. (S) 74170922

3.25 Channel 4 News. (S) 9778187 **3.35 Alternative Christmas Message.** Channel 4's alternative to the Queen's Christmas Day broadcast. (S) 6240038

3.45 FILM: Scrooged (1988) Christmas comedy, starring Bill Murray. (S) 501800

5.45 FILM: Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (1992) Comedy sequel, starring Macaulay Culkin. (S) 61747361

8.00 Gogglesprogs. The nation's children share their honest, inimitable and sometimes hilarious opinions on the best and worst of 2015's TV from the comfort of their own living rooms. The programme captures youngsters up to the age of 13 as they react to key moments, from the big news stories like the general election, to some of the most popular TV hits such as The Great British Bake Off, and powerful documentaries like the BBC's nature documentary Growing Up Wild. (S) 1598

9.00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man Christmas Special. Joining the host on the sofa for some festive cheer are Catherine Tate's Nan, Keith Lemon, Lorraine Kelly, Emma Willis and Marvin Humes. Last in the series. (S) 3125

11.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Christmas Special. A number of familiar faces join host Jimmy Carr and team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson as they cast their eyes over some of the more memorable stories of 2015. (S) 953093

12.05 Very British Problems at Christmas. (R) (S) 6259607

1.05 FILM: Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) (S) 554959

2.50 Friday Night Dinner. (R) (S) 6396591 **3.15 Gadget Man.** (R) (S) 70248881 **3.40 Gadget Man.** (R) (S) 30569591

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: The WotWots. (R) (S) 93666632 **6.10 Chloe's Closet.** (R) (S) 93680212 **6.20 Lily's Driftwood Bay.** (S) 93686496 **6.30 Fireman Sam.** (R) (S) 24647125 **6.40 Wissper.** (R) (S) 24643309 **6.50 Peppa Pig.** (R) (S) 68857854 **6.55 Pip Ahoy!** (S) 68847477 **7.05 Little Princess.** (R) (S) 9795767 **7.30 Bob the Builder.** (S) 5136632 **7.45 Thomas & Friends.** (R) (S) 6423090 **7.55 Noddy in Toyland.** (R) (S) 5155767 **8.10 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) (S) 9061816 **8.20 Peppa Pig.** (R) (S) 8142767 **8.35 Paw Patrol.** (R) (S) 7833903 **9.00 Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) (S) 4227767 **9.15 Toot the Tiny Tugboat.** (S) 1596309 **9.25 Mr Men.** (R) (S) 3716699 **9.35 Toby's Travelling Circus.** (R) (S) 5628293 **9.50 Andre Rieu's Christmas Spectacular.** (R) (S) 7547403

10.50 FILM: Scrooge (1970) Musical fantasy, starring Albert Finney. (S) 77985274

1.05 FILM: Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (1954) Musical Western, starring Howard Keel. (S) 78976380

3.10 FILM: The Wizard of Oz (1939) Musical fantasy, starring Judy Garland. (S) 14781729

5.10 Michael Buble's Christmas 2015. Festive special, with guest appearances by Celine Dion, Tori Kelly and Sharon Jones. (R) (S) 5592090

6.05 Britain's Favourite Christmas Songs. A countdown of popular songs that are guaranteed to make any Christmas party go with a swing. Highlights include the Jackson 5's Santa Claus Is Coming to Town, Greg Lake's I Believe in Father Christmas, the Waitresses' Christmas Wrapping and the Pogues and Kirsty MacColl's Fairytale of New York. Is Mud's Lonely This Christmas past its sell-by date? Will Jona Lewie ever Stop the Cavalry? And where would any Christmas party be without Slade and their classic anthem Merry Xmas Everybody? But which one will top the nation's festive chart? Featuring contributions by artists, producers, video directors, composers and journalists, who shed light on the creation of the songs and their accompanying videos. (R) 75912477

8.50 Chas & Dave's Xmas Knees Up! Festive entertainment from 1982, with guests including Eric Clapton, Jimmy Cricket, Jim Davidson, Albert Lee and Lennie Peters joining the Cockney duo. (R) (S) 6535583

9.40 Britain's Favourite Abba Songs. A countdown of the Swedish pop group's 20 most popular songs. (R) (S) 57002632

11.05 Sinatra 100: An All-Star Grammy Concert. (S) 35514380

1.25 Abba: Live in Concert. (R) (S) 89652688 **2.35 SuperCasino.** 85455077 **4.00 Christmas with Britain's Biggest Family.** (R) (S) 8533591

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BoxingDay

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. (S) 3004775 **10.00 Christmas Saturday Kitchen.** (S) 70171 **11.30 James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas.** (R) (S) 2711201

12.15 BBC News. (S) 6993268 **12.25 Football Focus.** (S) 8883152

1.00 Comic Relief 2015: Thanks a Billion! (S) 79133

2.00 Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out. (R) (S) 94805607

2.25 A Grand Night In: The Story of Aardman. (S) 2297046

3.25 FILM: Puss in Boots (2011) Animated comedy spin-off, with the voice of Antonio Banderas. (S) 9297249

4.45 FILM: The Croods (2013) Premiere. Animated comedy, with the voice of Nicolas Cage. (S) 3095249

6.10 Shaun the Sheep: The Farmer's Llamas. The mischievous sheep meets three trouble-making llamas at a country fair, and sensing kindred spirits, he invites them home to Mossy Bottom farm – with disastrous results. (S) 105201

6.40 BBC News. (S) 154862

6.50 BBC Regional News. (S) 178442

7.00 Dickensian. New series. Period drama re-imagining the works of Charles Dickens as inter-connected tales, beginning as ruthless debt collector Jacob Marley makes himself an enemy. (S) 2030

7.30 EastEnders. Kat tells Martin that Alfie is still in Spain – unaware he is not far behind her – and Dean is angry with Shirley after she ruins his plans for Christmas dinner. (S) 249

8.00 Still Open All Hours. New series. Granville and Gastric try to get Madge into the festive spirit by organising a cosy drinks party, while a bargain Christmas tree causes problems. (S) 6978

8.30 Dickensian. Christmas Day arrives and Inspector Bucket begins his investigation into Jacob Marley's murder, and at Satis House, Amelia Havisham's mysterious rescuer makes another appearance. (S) 8713

9.00 And Then There Were None. New series. Ten strangers are stranded on a remote island, and learn there may be a killer in their midst. Period mystery, starring Anna Maxwell Martin. Continues tomorrow. (S) 5959

10.00 BBC News; (S) Weather. (S) 524688

10.20 The National Lottery Live. Ore Oduba with the all-important Lotto and Thunderball draws. (S) 877317

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of Chelsea v Watford; (S) National Lottery Update. (S) 86783084

12.05 FILM: The Guardian (2006) (S) 19898350

2.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. (S) 5331621 **2.20 BBC News.** (S) 96938466

BBC2

6.00 Race to Super Bowl 50. (R) (S) 5475046 **6.50 Flog It!** (R) (S) 5619442

7.35 FILM: Tom Thumb (1958) Children's musical fantasy, starring Russ Tamblyn. (S) 5262930

9.05 FILM: Hotel for Dogs (2009) Family comedy, starring Emma Roberts and Jake T Austin. (S) 6984355

10.35 Ten Pieces II. (S) 7217862

11.35 FILM: G-Force (2009) Children's adventure, starring Bill Nighy. (S) 8019930

1.00 Attenborough's Big Birds: Natural World. David Attenborough examines the world of flightless birds. (R) (S) 77775

2.00 Attenborough's Paradise Birds. (R) (S) 91404

3.00 FILM: Bedtime Stories (2008) Fantasy comedy, starring Adam Sandler. (S) 86220

4.30 Final Score. (S) 29143

5.30 Don't Panic! The Dad's Army Story. (R) (S) 512268

6.20 We're Doomed!: The Dad's Army Story. (R) (S) 229171

7.20 Dad's Army. Frazer is unable to hide his delight when Captain Mainwaring's disreputable brother gatecrashes a sherry party for local dignitaries. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R) (S) 124572

8.00 Top Gear: From A to Z. John Bishop narrates the first of two programmes celebrating the highlights of the Jeremy Clarkson, James May and Richard Hammond era, via an alphabetical list. (S) 6065

9.00 A Gert Lush Christmas. Comedian Russell Howard's debut comedy drama. Dan Colman is about to introduce the woman of his dreams to his crazy but adorable family at Christmas, but it may not go to plan. (S) 6201

10.00 Abz on the Christmas Farm. Abz Love and his girlfriend Vicky Fallon spend Christmas reflecting on the successes and failures of their year running a smallholder farm in Wales. (S) 64713

10.30 Backchat End of Year Show 2015. Jack Whitehall and his father Michael review the past 12 months, picking apart some of the highs and lows of 2015 in an end-of-year special. (S) 26997

11.30 FILM: Kinky Boots (2005) A man inherits a struggling shoe factory and finds salvation for his business in a drag artist's need for custom footwear. Comedy drama, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor and Joel Edgerton. (S) 444607

1.15 FILM: Marnie (1964) Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Sean Connery and Tippi Hedren. (S) 53915824

3.20 Sign Zone: Imagine – The Ecstasy of Wilko Johnson. (R) (S) 517263 **4.55 This Is BBC Two.** (S) 4290756

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) (S) 8719133 **6.25 Pat & Stan.** (R) (S) 5022201 **6.30 Pat & Stan.** (R) (S) 1523572 **6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) (S) 1713201 **6.50 Dino Dan.** (R) (S) 1534688 **7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story.** (R) (S) 4431133 **7.05 Oddbods.** (R) (S) 4430404 **7.10 Sooty.** (R) (S) 4334133 **7.25 Super 4.** (R) (S) 4339688 **7.40 Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** (R) (S) 1694794 **7.50 Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** (R) (S) 1690978 **8.00 The Aquabats! Super Show!** (R) (S) 57423 **8.30 Thunderbirds Are Go.** (S) 56794 **9.00 The Tom & Jerry Show.** (R) (S) 8991423 **9.15 The Tom & Jerry Show.** (R) (S) 1363355 **9.25 Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas.** (R) (S) 7739713 **10.25 You've Been Framed!** (R) (S) 7093997

10.55 FILM: Back to the Future Part III (1990) Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Michael J Fox. (S) 49993713

1.05 ITV News. (S) 27829152

1.20 FILM: Jurassic Park (1993) Action adventure, starring Sam Neill. (S) 60533268

3.40 Midsomer Murders. An apparent suicide shocks the village of Morton Fendle. (R) (S) 367881

5.40 ITV News. (S) 671713

6.00 The Nation's Favourite Disney Song. (S) 84065

7.00 Surprise Surprise. Holly Willoughby delivers Christmas presents to members of the public, including an injured soldier preparing to row across the Atlantic and a young heart transplant survivor. (S) 7171

8.00 Peter & Wendy. Lucy Rose, a 12-year-old girl with a serious heart condition, is admitted to Great Ormond Street Hospital to await treatment. On the night before her operation, Lucy reads JM Barrie's tale of Peter Pan to her fellow patients, and as she eventually drifts off to sleep, her dreaming mind conjures up the magical world of Neverland. Stepping into the role of Wendy Darling, the youngster meets the mischievous Peter, and joins him in battling the villainous Captain Hook, while in the real world, Lucy's mother Julie remains distraught at the prospect of losing her beloved daughter, and seeks comfort in the assurances of paediatric surgeon Mr Wylie. A re-imagining of Barrie's classic tale, starring Stanley Tucci, Laura Fraser, Hazel Doupe and Zachary Sutcliffe, with pop star Paloma Faith playing the role of Tinkerbell. (S) 94356775

10.05 The Jonathan Ross Show Christmas Special. The host presents a Boxing Day special in which he dispenses with his no-holds-barred questions. Last in the series. (S) 8192152

11.10 ITV News; (S) Weather. (S) 103572

11.25 FILM: From Russia with Love (1963) (S) 505997

1.25 Jackpot247. 380350 **3.00 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) (S) 6159669

CHANNEL 4

6.15 FILM: Ramona and Beezus (2010) Family comedy, starring Joey King. (S) 71940607

8.00 The Morning Line. (S) 10201 **9.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) (S) 45688 **9.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) (S) 63572 **10.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) (S) 7081152 **10.25 The Simpsons.** (R) (S) 7091539 **10.55 The Simpsons.** (R) (S) 7747864

11.25 FILM: Fantastic Mr Fox (2009) Stop-motion animated adventure, with the voice of George Clooney. (S) 25552862

1.10 Channel 4 Racing. Including the King George VI Chase at 3.10. (S) 60535626

3.30 FILM: Home Alone 3 (1997) Comedy sequel, starring Alex D Linz. (S) 353688

5.25 Channel 4 News. (S) 7687591 **5.35 The Secret Life of Children at Christmas.** The children are reunited to perform their own nativity play. (R) (S) 597959

6.30 Britain's Favourite Children's Books with David Walliams. The comedy actor, presenter and author counts down through a list of the nation's most beloved children's books. Compiled by the Sunday Times' children's books editor Nicolette Jones and the Times literary editor Andrew Holgate, the list includes timeless classics alongside modern favourites, and is accompanied by extracts read by celebrity fans including Julie Walters and Martin Freeman. (S) 42775

8.00 Inside Lego at Christmas. Cameras return to the Lego factory ahead of Christmas to discover how staff prepare for the festive season, which accounts for more than half of the firm's annual sales. (S) 1133

9.00 The Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2015. Rob Brydon, Sue Perkins, David Mitchell, Claudia Winkleman, Greg Davies and Jo Brand battle it out as Jimmy Carr hosts the annual comedy quiz to determine which of his guests has their finger firmly on the pulse of modern life. The host receives help from the likes of Simon Pegg, Heston Blumenthal, Olly Murs, Rita Ora, Charles Dance and Jon Snow, as he poses questions relating to stories that gripped the media spotlight over the course of the year, including the infamous colour-changing dress, the politician Jeremy Paxman claimed was known as a "north London geek", and what it really means to be invited to "Netflix and chill". (S) 84952930

11.05 Rude Tube Christmas Cracker. (R) (S) 388881

12.10 Alan Carr: Chatty Man Christmas Special. (R) (S) 415244 **2.05 Rude Tube.** (S) 8996824 **3.00 Hollyoaks.** (R) (S) 72490244 **5.10 Location, Location, Location.** (R) (S) 4690089

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. (R) (S) 17692274 **6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas.** 96298423 **6.20 Bob the Builder.** (R) (S) 93580268 **6.30 Tickety Toc.** (R) (S) 17395201 **6.55 Milkshake! Bop Box.** (R) (S) 68750997 **7.00 Zack and Quack.** (S) 1095152 **7.10 Milkshake! Monkey.** (R) (S) 3854978 **7.15 Make Way for Noddy.** (R) (S) 1090607 **7.25 Paw Patrol.** (R) (S) 1003171 **7.40 Little Princess.** (R) (S) 6328591 **7.50 Pip Ahoy!** (R) (S) 5050268 **8.05 Blaze and the Monster Machines.** (R) (S) 5235210 **8.25 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) (S) 8029862 **8.45 Wanda and the Alien.** (R) (S) 7744539 **8.55 Toby's Travelling Circus.** (R) (S) 7724775 **9.10 The Saturday Show.** (S) 18596423 **11.10 The Dog Rescuers at Christmas with Alan Davies.** (R) (S) 8984510 **12.10 The Secret Life of Marilyn Monroe.** Biopic, starring Kelli Garner and Susan Sarandon. (S) 45757133

3.15 FILM: Diana (2013) Premiere. Fact-based drama, starring Naomi Watts. (S) 21342591

5.05 FILM: One Chance (2013) Premiere. Fact-based comedy drama, starring James Corden. (S) 61182572

7.05 Christmas Makes You Laugh Out Loud. Iain Lee presents Christmas-themed videos that have taken the internet by storm in a seasonal special showcasing hilarious online clips with a festive twist. (R) (S) 5382046

8.05 Chas & Dave's Xmas Knees Up! Festive entertainment from 1982, which sees the Cockney duo joined by celebrity guests Eric Clapton, Jimmy Cricket, Jim Davidson, Albert Lee and Lennie Peters. (R) (S) 2434046

9.00 Football League Tonight: Boxing Day Special. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the packed Boxing Day fixture list, including Hull City v Burnley at the KC Stadium and Derby County v Fulham at the iPro Stadium in the Championship. Plus, all the goals from Leagues One and Two, where the big matches included Doncaster Rovers v Scunthorpe United at the Keepmoat Stadium and Plymouth v Yeovil Town at Home Park. (S) 8292881

10.30 Most Shocking Christmas TV Moments. A merry romp through the most inappropriate, outrageous and appallingly atrocious Christmas television turkeys of all time, featuring contributions from some of those involved. (S) 6115404

12.30 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Christmas Special. (R) (S) 7225824 **1.25 SuperCasino.** 7837089 **3.10 Kids' Hospital at Christmas: Revisited.** (R) (S) 6720737 **4.00 Chris Tarrant on the Polar Express.** (R) (S) 4175447 **4.50 Make It Big.** (R) (S) 58420824 **5.15 Make It Big.** (R) (S) 6279621 **5.45 Angels of Jarm.** (R) (S) 31405282

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December 27

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. (S) 71905534 **7.40 Match of the Day.** (R) (S) 23705602

9.15 FILM: Flushed Away (2006) Animated comedy, featuring the voice of Hugh Jackman. (S) 1486447

10.35 FILM: Megamind (2010) Animated superhero comedy, with the voice of Will Ferrell. (S) 9481027

12.00 Bargain Hunt. (S) 72602

1.00 BBC News; (S) Weather. (S) 27888805

1.15 Songs of Praise. (S) 5177379

1.50 FILM: Mary Poppins (1964) Disney musical fantasy, with Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke. (S) 76301076

4.05 FILM: Oz the Great and Powerful (2013) Premiere. Fantasy adventure, starring James Franco. (S) 56794466

6.05 BBC News. (S) 955282

6.20 BBC Regional News. (S) 931737

6.30 Countryfile Compilation: The Farming Year. Adam Henson presents a look back at 2015's rural developments, presenting memorable moments from the series and planning ahead on his own farm. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. (S) 51602

7.30 Dickensian. Bucket is convinced that Fagin had a part to play in Marley's murder, and sets off in pursuit of his partner in crime Bill Sikes. Frances plots to ruin her sister's plans. (S) 398

8.00 Still Open All Hours. Granville holds a sale to get rid of his old stock, Nurse Gladys runs into a former patient, and Mrs Featherstone has romance in mind when the neighbourhood has a new arrival. (S) 4553

8.30 Dickensian. Amelia is troubled by the arrival of an unexpected guest at the Havishams' New Year's party, while Frances rekindles an old friendship, which she hopes will lead to something more. (S) 3060

9.00 And Then There Were None. The death toll on Soldier Island continues to rise. The surviving guests make plans to end the killings, but as they do, the dreadful secrets they are hiding are brought to light. Concludes tomorrow. (S) 8404

10.00 BBC News. (S) 279640

10.15 BBC Regional News. (S) 268669

10.25 Catherine Tate's Nan. The first of two specials featuring the foul-mouthed pensioner. Nan's aggressive attitude gets her into trouble with the police and she is forced to attend anger management classes. (S) 890195

11.00 Miranda Hart – My What I Call Live Show. (S) 33114

12.00 FILM: Ghost Town (2008) Comedy, starring Ricky Gervais. (S) 237577

1.35 Weather for the Week Ahead. (S) 4723138 **1.40 BBC News.** (S) 78984683

BBC2

6.20 Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) (S) 3643282 **7.20 Countryfile: Cornish Coastal Christmas.** (R) (S) 6182331

8.15 FILM: A Man for All Seasons (1966) Oscar-winning historical drama, starring Paul Scofield and Robert Shaw. (S) 671832

10.15 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (S) 974486 **11.45 The Hairy Bikers and Lorraine Pascale: Cooking the Nation's Favourite Food.** (R) (S) 180824 **12.45 The Secret Life of Mary Poppins: A Culture Show Special.** Victoria Coren Mitchell explores the life of writer PL Travers. (R) (S) 463669

1.45 FILM: The Cockleshell Heroes (1955) Fact-based Second World War drama. (S) 43753756

3.20 FILM: The Heroes of Telemark (1965) Second World War thriller, starring Kirk Douglas and Richard Harris. (S) 16510911

5.25 Porridge. Christmas special from 1975. The inmates plan a Christmas escape. (R) (S) 9077447

6.10 FILM: Deep Impact (1998) A reporter investigating a presidential misdemeanour stumbles on evidence that a comet is on a collision course with Earth. Sci-fi drama, starring Robert Duvall and Tea Leoni. (S) 38595718

8.00 Dragons' Den. Entrepreneurs Peter Jones, Deborah Meaden, Nick Jenkins, Sarah Willingham and Touker Suleyman return to cast their eyes over more business pitches. Among the ideas being presented are a product designed to conceal grey hairs and a company that organises zombie boot camps – and which turns the studio into a horror show. (R) (S) 8602

9.00 Gorilla Family and Me. Part two of two. Gordon Buchanan returns to the Democratic Republic of Congo in the hope of finding the gorilla family again, and discovering the outcome of silverback Chimanuka's confrontation with a rival. He soon finds the apes, but discovers their lives are now under threat from poachers, and works with the local rangers to prevent them coming to harm. (R) (S) 8466

10.00 U2: Innocence and Experience Live in Paris. Footage from various performances by the rock band in the French capital, featuring tracks from their most recent album Songs of Innocence as well as classic hits. (S) 19857534

12.15 FILM: Telstar: The Joe Meek Story (2008) (S) 800312

2.10 Sign Zone: Countryfile: Cornish Coastal Christmas. (R) (S) 8968041 **3.05 Sign Zone: Holby City.** (R) (S) 4122935 **4.05 Sign Zone: Cue the Queen: Celebrating the Christmas Speech.** (R) (S) 1341664 **5.05 This Is BBC Two.** (S) 4829206

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) (S) 8786805 **6.25 Pat & Stan.** (R) (S) 5099973 **6.30 Pat & Stan.** (R) (S) 1590244 **6.35 Dino Dan.** (R) (S) 1780973 **6.50 Dino Dan.** (R) (S) 1594060 **7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story.** (R) (S) 4408805 **7.05 Oddbods.** (R) (S) 4407176 **7.10 Sooty.** (R) (S) 4301805 **7.25 Super 4.** (R) (S) 4399060 **7.40 Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** (R) (S) 1661466 **7.50 Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** (R) (S) 1650350 **8.00 The Aquabats! Super Show!** (R) (S) 5820992 **8.25 Weekend at Christmas.** (S) 3866669 **9.25 Countrywise.** (R) (S) 5076447 **9.55 Celebrity Squares.** (R) (S) 2581824

10.40 FILM: Superman (1978) Comic-strip adventure, starring Christopher Reeve. (S) 85365832

1.30 ITV News; (S) Weather. (S) 67797379

1.45 FILM: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) Fantasy comedy, starring Dustin Hoffman and Natalie Portman. (S) 51961244

3.35 Midsomer Murders. (R) (S) 335282

5.30 ITV News; (S) Weather. (S) 495094

5.45 ITV News. (S) 390350

6.00 You've Been Framed! With Bells On. Camcorder clips with a festive theme, including a pensioner throwing fireworks at carol singers, a Christmas fairy going up in flames, and a smartphone found inside a turkey. (R) (S) 602

6.30 Jekyll and Hyde. Robert goes into hiding in the country with Ravi and Olalla, but he is soon tracked down by a shapeshifting monster that disguises itself as Lily to deceive him. (S) 86398

7.30 Jekyll and Hyde. A revived Dance launches an attack on MI0 to complete his mission and resurrect Lord Trash, while Robert discovers that one of his friends has lied to him. Last in the series. (S) 74737

8.30 Harry Price: Ghost Hunter. Famous ghost hunter and sceptic Harry Price teams up with maid Sarah Grey to investigate the haunting of a local MP's home. Historical period drama, starring Rafe Spall. (S) 62843

10.30 ITV News; (S) Weather. (S) 211992

10.45 Through the Christmas Keyhole. Keith Lemon has a festive rummage through the homes of three celebrities, challenging Stephen Mulhern, Claudia Winkleman and Jimmy Carr to guess their identities. Last in the series. (R) (S) 792718

11.45 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the latest round of fixtures in England's top flight, including Harlequins v Gloucester at Twickenham, Bath v Worcester Warriors and Wasps v Saracens. (S) 417331

12.35 Jackpot247. 24722312 **3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R) (S) 9473732 **3.40 ITV Nightscreen.** 2282111

CHANNEL 4

6.05 FILM: Flicka 2 (2010) Family drama, starring Tammin Sursok. (S) 35021737

7.40 FILM: Paws (1997) Family adventure, with the voice of Billy Connolly. (S) 10999992

9.20 Sunday Brunch. (S) 16148379 **12.20 The Simpsons.** Marge allows her hair to turn grey. (R) (S) 1641466 **12.45 The Simpsons.** Guest starring Ricky Gervais and Russell Brand. (R) (S) 2730282 **1.10 Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Chepstow and Kempton Park. (S) 33390553

3.35 FILM: Hugo (2011) Family adventure, starring Asa Butterfield. (S) 55466824

5.55 Channel 4 News. (S) 229379

6.00 Celebrity Fifteen to One Christmas Special. Adam Hills hosts a festive edition of the tit-for-tat general knowledge quiz, which sees the likes of Johnny Vegas, Rufus Hound, Jenny Eclair, Shappi Khorsandi, John Thomson, Mariella Frostrup, Spencer Matthews, Sunetra Sarker, Katherine Ryan and Roisin Conaty nominating each other to answer questions until only the winner is left standing. (R) (S) 94824

7.00 Million Pound Motors. Documentary following a vintage car salesman as he attempts to purchase a valuable collection of rare vehicles, while his apprentice struggles to secure his first sale. (S) 7350

8.00 Walking the Himalayas. New series. Explorer Levison Wood attempts to walk the entire length of the Himalayas. Beginning in Afghanistan, he will push himself to the limit as he treks 1,700 miles. (S) 3398

9.00 Homeland. Time is running out in the conclusion of the fifth series of the thriller following a team of CIA agents battling terrorists. Claire Danes stars. Last in the series. (S) 3534

10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Christmas Special. Jimmy Carr hosts a festive edition of the comedy panel quiz, with Johnny Vegas joining Sean Lock to take on Jon Richardson and Katherine Ryan. (R) (S) 6621

11.00 FILM: The Inbetweeners 2 (2014) The awkward teenagers find university does not live up to their expectations, and go to Australia in search of adventure. Comedy sequel, starring Simon Bird. (S) 969195

12.55 The Inbetweeners. (R) (S) 3940225 **1.25 The Inbetweeners.** (R) (S) 9322935 **1.55 The Inbetweeners.** (R) (S) 3573751 **2.20 The Inbetweeners.** (R) (S) 3700022

2.50 FILM: That Touch of Mink (1962) Romantic comedy, starring Cary Grant and Doris Day. (S) 222095

4.30 Benchmark. (S) 8891995 **5.15 Location, Location, Location.** (R) (S) 4659732

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. (R) (S) 41997486 **6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) (S) 93536447 **6.15 Angelina Ballerina.** (R) (S) 96261379 **6.30 Bob the Builder.** (R) (S) 24903060 **6.45 Tickety Toc.** (R) (S) 24506824 **6.55 Zack and Quack.** (R) (S) 68701621 **7.05 Roobarb and Custard Too.** (R) (S) 1061195 **7.15 Make Way for Noddy.** (R) (S) 1041331 **7.30 Paw Patrol.** (R) (S) 5016824 **7.40 Little Princess.** (R) (S) 5096060 **7.55 Pip Ahoy!** (R) (S) 5019911 **8.10 Blaze and the Monster Machines.** (R) (S) 7167843 **8.40 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) (S) 5062824 **8.55 Wanda and the Alien.** (R) (S) 7791447 **9.10 Toby's Travelling Circus.** (R) (S) 1442534 **9.25 Jelly Jamm.** (R) (S) 3670843 **9.35 LazyTown.** (R) (S) 6232282 **10.00 Mr Men.** (R) (S) 2500263 **10.15 Football League Tonight: Boxing Day Special.** (R) (S) 2447737

11.45 FILM: Cromwell (1970) Historical drama, starring Richard Harris and Alec Guinness. (S) 36907805

2.25 FILM: The Searchers (1956) John Ford's Western, starring John Wayne. (S) 23478060

4.45 FILM: Escape to Victory (1981) Second World War adventure, starring Michael Caine. (S) 54866640

7.00 World's Strongest Man 2015. Action from the opening heat of the competition in Malaysia. British hopes were resting on the broad shoulders of the likes of Eddie Hall and Mark Felix. (S) 5362282

7.55 5 News Weekend. (S) 7036553

8.00 On Benefits: Cashing in for Christmas. Christmas for people living on state welfare, including a woman struggling to buy gifts for her eight children and two friends who rummage through shops' bins. (R) (S) 3289534

9.00 Most Shocking Celebrity Moments 2015. Countdown of the biggest showbusiness stories and scandals of the year, including Bruce Jenner's transition to Caitlyn, the Top Gear bust-up involving Jeremy Clarkson, bad behaviour from repeat offenders such as Justin Bieber, One Direction and Miley Cyrus, and the Duke of Edinburgh swearing. Plus, a wardrobe malfunction at a music awards ceremony, the antics on Celebrity Big Brother, and break-ups in the form of Gwen Stefani and Gavin Rossdale. (S) 12877398

11.55 The Last Hours of Robin Williams. Forensic pathologist Dr Richard Shepherd investigates the death of actor and comedian Robin Williams, whose body was discovered at his San Francisco home in August 2014. (R) (S) 1493553 **12.55 SuperCasino.** 80199577 **3.10 A Primary School Nativity.** (R) (S) 6797409 **4.00 House Doctor.** (R) (S) 18450577 **4.25 Make It Big.** (R) (S) 18462312

December 28

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. (S) 537645

9.00 FILM: Bee Movie (2007) Animated comedy, with the voice of Jerry Seinfeld. (S) 1116428

10.20 Old Jack's Boat Special: Storm in a Teacup. (S) 2283409

11.00 FILM: Bolt (2008) Animated adventure, with the voice of John Travolta. (S) 67041

12.30 Bargain Hunt. (R) (S) 5248312

1.10 BBC News; (S) Weather. (S) 27868041

1.25 BBC Regional News. (S) 48257312

1.30 Father Brown. Suspicion grows concerning a supposed accidental drowning. (R) (S) 4504461

2.20 FILM: Cool Runnings (1993) Fact-based sporting comedy, starring John Candy. (S) 410461

3.55 The Gruffalo. (R) (S) 9829119

4.25 FILM: Madagascar (2005) Animated comedy, with the voice of Ben Stiller. (S) 2464886

5.45 Pointless. Quiz show, hosted by Alexander Armstrong. (R) (S) 603022

6.30 BBC News; (S) Weather. (S) 940596

6.45 BBC Regional News. (S) 930119

7.00 Celebrity Mastermind. Tom Kerridge, Steph Houghton, Rob Delaney and Dominic Wood answer questions on Oasis, The Only Way Is Essex, John Belushi and Harry Houdini. (S) 3570

7.30 Wallace & Gromit: A Matter of Loaf and Death. The duo open their own bakery and business is soon booming – not least because their potential rivals have all been killed by a mysterious assassin. (R) (S) 119

8.00 EastEnders. Dean's drunken behaviour spirals out of control – leading to a shocking discovery by Shirley. Alfie confronts Kat to ask why she left Spain and Whitney has bad news for Mick. (S) 6190

8.30 Miranda. The very last episode of the hit sitcom sees the shopkeeper making one final attempt to accept herself and find contentment. Miranda Hart stars, with Patricia Hodge and Tom Ellis. (R) (S) 700480

9.05 And Then There Were None. The remaining guests must turn to one another for comfort and protection as the likelihood of survival rapidly diminishes, but trust is in short supply. Last in the series. (S) 382374

10.05 BBC News. (S) 633848

10.20 BBC Regional News. (S) 639157

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League fixtures, including Manchester United v Chelsea at Old Trafford and Arsenal v Bournemouth at the Emirates Stadium. (S) 20954

12.00 Lewis Hamilton: Making History – F1 2015 Review. A look back at the 2015 campaign. (R) (S) 47165 **1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead.** (S) 8354829 **1.05 BBC News.** (S) 86289233

BBC2

6.15 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) (S) 463683 **7.15 Escape to the Continent.** (R) (S) 95225 **7.45 Sign Zone: This Wild Life.** (R) (S) 94596 **8.15 Sign Zone: This Wild Life.** (R) (S) 593138

8.45 FILM: Ivanhoe (1952) Medieval adventure, starring Robert Taylor. (S) 87857454

10.30 The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure. (R) (S) 52119 **11.30 The Great Pottery Throw Down.** (R) (S) 47428 **12.30 Les Dawson Talking Comedy.** Clips featuring the comedian. (R) (S) 81732 **1.00 The Bear Family and Me.** Gordon Buchanan follows a family of wild black bears for a year. (R) (S) 19515

2.00 Coast. The team focuses on the Irish Sea and its surrounding land. (R) (S) 60436

3.00 Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth. Documentary examining the natural forces underpinning life in the Atlantic. (R) (S) 9886

4.00 Flog It! James Lewis and Kate Bliss value items in Stroud. (R) (S) 848

4.30 Final Score. A round-up of this afternoon's football results. (S) 15645

5.30 The Clare Balding Show. With AP McCoy, Geraint Thomas and Mark Webber. (S) 312

6.00 FILM: What Women Want (2000) A womanising executive gets a new insight into life when he accidentally gains the ability to hear the thoughts of the opposite sex. Romantic comedy, with Mel Gibson and Helen Hunt. (S) 5190

8.00 Christmas University Challenge. Teams made up of distinguished alumni of the universities of Aberdeen and Sheffield compete, with both sides hoping to secure a place in the semi-finals. (S) 4732

8.30 Only Connect. The concluding quarter-final sees the Wayfarers take on the Bookworms in the lateral-thinking quiz. Victoria Coren Mitchell asks the questions. (S) 3867

9.00 FILM: Behind the Candelabra (2013) Premiere. Biopic of pianist Liberace, following his secret five-year relationship with a younger man. Directed by Steven Soderbergh and starring Michael Douglas and Matt Damon. (S) 85606954

10.50 Two Doors Down. A Scottish couple face a chaotic time as they host a New Year's Eve party for their friends. (R) (S) 244041

11.50 Dragons' Den. The panel cast their eyes over another selection of business pitches, including a product designed to conceal grey hairs and a zombie boot camp. Presented by Evan Davis. (R) (S) 568428

12.50 Sign Zone: The Apprentice. (R) (S) 897417 **2.50 Sign Zone: Doctor Who.** (R) (S) 4666271 **3.50 This Is BBC Two.** (S) 88700707

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. (R) (S) 7030770 **6.15 Dino Dan.** (R) (S) 1020867 **6.25 Sooty.** (R) (S) 1019751 **6.35 Super 4.** (R) (S) 1757645 **6.50 Super 4.** (R) (S) 1561732 **7.00 Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** (R) (S) 1025770 **7.15 Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** (R) (S) 4377848 **7.30 Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** (R) (S) 6703409 **7.45 Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** (R) (S) 6791664 **8.00 The Tom & Jerry Show.** (R) (S) 1834190 **8.10 The Tom & Jerry Show.** (R) (S) 4764225 **8.25 Almost Naked Animals.** (R) (S) 4752480 **8.40 Almost Naked Animals.** (R) (S) 7534916 **8.55 Horrid Henry.** (R) (S) 4254022 **9.10 Horrid Henry.** (R) (S) 1382480 **9.25 Dickinson's Real Deal.** (R) (S) 9964645 **10.30 Judge Rinder.** (R) (S) 49645 **11.30 Who's Doing the Dishes?** (R) (S) 34954

12.30 Catchphrase. (R) (S) 6910645

1.15 ITV Lunchtime News; (S) Weather. (S) 27644799

1.20 ITV News; (S) Weather. (S) 27625664

1.30 Our Cilla. (R) (S) 44190

2.30 Surprise Surprise. (R) (S) 80596

3.30 Midsomer Murders. (R) (S) 14461

5.30 Hedgehog Hotel. (S) 352886

6.25 ITV News; (S) Weather. (S) 622428

6.45 ITV Evening News; (S) Weather. (S) 958515

7.00 Emmerdale. Zak tries to undo the damage he has caused, as Lisa comforts Belle and Cain warns Joanie to stay away from his family, while Aaron is questioned by the police. (S) 2138

7.30 Coronation Street. Johnny receives an email that leaves him reeling, and Carla is concerned when he drags her back to his flat to talk. Meanwhile, Tracy confides in Beth that she still loves Rob. (S) 515

8.00 Countrywise. Liz Bonnin takes part in the National Trust's biggest coastal wildlife survey, while Paul Heiney learns about traction engines at the Great Dorset Steam Fair. Last in the series. (S) 1886

8.30 Coronation Street. Carla is stunned by a revelation from Johnny, while Rob shocks Tracy by admitting that he has been leading her on and simply wanted to ruin her life as she did his. (S) 5503

9.00 John Bishop's Gorilla Adventure. The comedian leaves the relative comfort of the stage behind to observe mountain gorillas in the forests of Rwanda, and learns about the work necessary to protect the species. (S) 9139

10.00 ITV News at Ten. (S) 629645

10.14 ITV Weather. (S) 604461

10.15 FILM: The Holiday (2006) Romantic comedy, starring Cameron Diaz and Kate Winslet. (S) 48849374

12.45 Jackpot247. 62658726 **3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) (S) 6004165 **3.55 ITV Nightscreen.** 1829748 **5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) (S) 4566078

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Small Animal Hospital. (S) 2419515

6.50 FILM: See Spot Run (2001) Comedy, starring David Arquette. (S) 17653596

8.35 The Big Bang Theory. (R) (S) 2790799 **9.05 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) (S) 4694111 **9.35 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) (S) 3150886

10.05 FILM: Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (2011) Premiere. Comedy, starring Jordana Beatty. (S) 89645409

11.50 The Simpsons. (R) (S) 3641312 **12.15 The Simpsons.** Marge becomes obsessed with peach-based desserts. (R) (S) 858577 **12.45 The Simpsons.** (R) (S) 857848

1.15 FILM: Marmaduke (2010) Comedy, starring Lee Pace. (S) 26371041

2.55 FILM: Stuart Little 2 (2002) Family adventure sequel, with the voice of Michael J Fox. (S) 7054683

4.25 FILM: Mirror Mirror (2012) Fantasy, starring Julia Roberts. (S) 78862867

6.30 Channel 4 News. (S) 196848

6.35 Hollyoaks. Lindsey is annoyed when the annual Roscoes' Boxing Day football match interrupts her time alone with Joe, while Peri is suspicious about her uncle's whereabouts. (S) 419041

7.05 A Frozen Christmas. Documentary exploring the success of the luxury ice-sculpting business, meeting artists responsible for creating bespoke frozen artworks. (S) 255954

8.00 The World's Most Expensive Food. The luxury food suppliers who cater to the super-rich, including a New Yorker pitching his high-end chocolate to a specialist retailer, a group of wealthy customers, and Harrods. (S) 1515

9.00 Gogglebox 2015. Highlights of the past year on Gogglebox, revisiting comments from armchair critics including Leon and June, Steph and Dom, Christopher and Stephen, and Sandy and Sandra. (S) 12431003

10.35 Tattoo Fixers. New series. Return of the programme in which tattoo artists try to fix inked catastrophes, beginning with a man who wants to disguise the tattoo he got to win an argument. (S) 7520867

11.40 David Blaine: Real or Magic. The illusionist performs mind-boggling tricks for a host of celebrities, including Katy Perry, Will Smith, Kanye West, Jamie Foxx, Ricky Gervais and Stephen Hawking. (R) (S) 825935

12.50 FILM: The Omen (1976) Horror, starring Gregory Peck. (S) 891233

2.45 FILM: The China Syndrome (1979) Thriller, starring Michael Douglas and Jane Fonda. (S) 417368

4.45 Benchmark. (S) 4976542 **5.35 Gadget Man.** (R) (S) 3527504

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: The WotWots. (R) (S) 93504848 **6.10 Chloe's Closet.** (R) (S) 93528428 **6.20 Lily's Driftwood Bay.** (R) (S) 93517312 **6.30 Fireman Sam.** (R) (S) 24578041 **6.40 Wissper.** (R) (S) 24574225 **6.50 Peppa Pig.** (R) (S) 68788770 **6.55 Pip Ahoy!** (R) (S) 68778393 **7.05 Little Princess.** (R) (S) 5162683 **7.20 Bob the Builder.** (R) (S) 3801886 **7.30 Thomas & Friends.** (R) (S) 5074848 **7.45 Noddy in Toyland.** (R) (S) 6361206 **7.55 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) (S) 5086683 **8.10 Peppa Pig.** (R) (S) 2961225 **8.15 Peppa Pig.** (R) (S) 9991003 **8.25 Paw Patrol.** (R) (S) 8063206 **8.45 Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) (S) 7771683 **8.55 Milkshake! Bop Box.** (R) (S) 4297596 **9.00 Toot the Tiny Tugboat.** (R) (S) 1422770 **9.10 Toby's Travelling Circus.** (R) (S) 1428954 **9.20 Wanda and the Alien.** (R) (S) 1408190 **9.35 Mr Men.** 5566409 **9.50 World's Strongest Man 2015.** (R) (S) 4496139

10.50 FILM: An American in Paris (1951) Romantic musical, starring Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron. (S) 28551732

1.00 FILM: Anchors Aweigh (1945) Musical, starring Frank Sinatra and Gene Kelly. (S) 78377225

3.55 FILM: High Society (1956) Musical romantic comedy, with Bing Crosby and Grace Kelly. (S) 77576119

6.00 Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild. The impact of the seasons on wildlife in the national park, beginning with spring. (R) (S) 1743886

6.55 World's Strongest Man 2015. Action from the second heat of the competition. (S) 1172119

7.50 5 News Tonight. 7095206

8.00 Building the Ice Hotel. The work of builders constructing Icehotel, a sophisticated structure built every year since 1990 in the village of Jukkasjarvi – more than 120 miles inside the Arctic Circle; (R) (S) 5 News Update. (S) 3256206

9.00 The Frank Sinatra Story. Profile of the singer and actor, from a uniquely British perspective, charting his career across seven decades from young singer in Hoboken, New Jersey, to international stardom. (S) 3269770

10.00 Frank Sinatra Live in New York. A 1974 show at Madison Square Garden. (S) 3279157

11.00 Frank Sinatra & Gene Kelly: Ol' Blue Eyes Is Back. A TV special from 1973. (R) (S) 4534577

11.35 Happy Holidays with Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby. Christmas special from 1957. (R) (S) 9694916

12.05 Football League Tonight. (S) 85317349 **1.35 SuperCasino.** 1322097 **3.10 The Dog Rescuers at Christmas with Alan Davies.** (R) (S) 6684981 **4.00 Michaela's Wild Challenge.** (R) (S) 18354349 **4.25 Divine Designs.** (R) (S) 18366184 **4.50 House Doctor.** (R) (S) 52559558

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December 29

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. (S) 33788 **7.30 Match of the Day.** (R) (S) 56639

9.00 FILM: Shark Tale (2004) Animated comedy, with the voice of Will Smith. (S) 1003900

10.20 FILM: Cars 2 (2011) Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of Owen Wilson. (S) 40026184

12.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) (S) 9391252

12.45 BBC News; (S) Weather. (S) 73582320

1.00 BBC Regional News. (S) 27759349

1.10 Father Brown. (R) (S) 5927252

2.00 FILM: National Treasure (2004) Action adventure, starring Nicolas Cage. (S) 3707

4.00 The Gruffalo's Child. (R) (S) 4895977

4.25 FILM: Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (2008) (S) 2431558

5.45 Pointless. (R) (S) 319691

6.30 BBC News; (S) Weather. (S) 207875

6.45 BBC Regional News. (S) 220726

7.00 Celebrity Mastermind. Vincent Franklin, Christian Malcolm, Chris Warburton and Graham Fellowes answer questions on Disney-Pixar films, Olympic sprinting, Reeves and Mortimer, and Donald Crowhurst. (S) 9417

7.30 EastEnders. Shirley is left horrified when she discovers Dean attacking Roxy and quickly comes to her aid – leading to a realisation that may change the Carters for ever. (S) 368

8.00 Holby City. Serena has resigned herself to another lonely New Year's Eve, but fate has other ideas, and Ric Griffin returns, but struggles to find his place in the hospital. (S) 7900

9.00 David Beckham: For the Love of the Game. Cameras follow David Beckham as he attempts to play a football match on all seven continents in under 10 days and get back in time for his own fundraising match at Old Trafford. (S) 2349

10.30 BBC News. (S) 551542

10.45 BBC Regional News; (S) National Lottery Update. (S) 819078

10.55 Peter Kay's Car Share. John has had a fancy new hands-free phone kit fitted in his car, but he arrives at Kayleigh's house only to discover she is far more excited by the previous night's events. (R) (S) 359165

11.25 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes vows to make her nativity play unforgettable – although her patience is severely tested when her friends and family keep badgering her for the best parts. (R) (S) 992875

11.55 Boomers. Festive episode of the comedy. The couples regret that Christmas Eve trip to the German markets when their journey home proves to be more fraught than they would have liked. (R) (S) 596875

12.25 Weather for the Week Ahead. (S) 3808295 **12.30 BBC News.** (S) 8926011

BBC2

6.15 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) (S) 755610 **7.15 Escape to the Continent.** (R) (S) 29610 **7.45 Sign Zone: This Wild Life.** (R) (S) 28981 **8.15 Sign Zone: An Island Parish: Falklands.** Plans are made to commemorate Liberation Day. (R) (S) 894813

8.45 FILM: Show Boat (1951) Musical romance, with Kathryn Grayson and Howard Keel. (S) 56106766

10.30 The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure. (R) (S) 62788 **11.30 The Great Pottery Throw Down.** (R) (S) 62165 **12.30 Peter Sellers Talking Comedy.** (R) (S) 46097 **1.00 The Bear Family and Me.** Gordon Buchanan discovers black bear cub Hope has been abandoned. (R) (S) 34252

2.00 Coast. Britain's first lifeboat station and how ferries cope with stormy seas. (R) (S) 67639

3.00 Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth. (R) (S) 7271

4.00 Flog It! (R) (S) 2850417

4.55 Super-Powered Owls: Natural World. (R) (S) 1607829

5.55 FILM: Finding Neverland (2004) Fact-based period drama, starring Johnny Depp. (S) 85313542

7.30 Christmas University Challenge. Teams made up of distinguished alumni of the University of Durham and the London School of Economics compete, with both sides hoping to secure a place in the semi-finals. (S) 610

8.00 Gareth Malone's Great Choir Reunion. To mark the 10th anniversary of The Choir, Gareth Malone tracks down members from all the choirs who have participated in the series to bring them together for a reunion. (S) 5542

9.00 A Life on Screen – Stephen Fry. In this documentary, Stephen Fry tells the story behind his success, with contributions from Michael Sheen, Hugh Laurie and Alan Davies. (S) 2078

10.00 QI. Sarah Millican, Tommy Tiernan and Josh Widdicombe compete alongside resident panellist Alan Davies, as Stephen Fry probes the subject of Messing with Your Mind. (S) 98962

10.30 FILM: Albert Nobbs (2011) A woman living in disguise as a man in 19th-century Ireland decides to find a wife after a meeting with a fellow cross-dresser. Drama, with Glenn Close. (S) 12047146

12.15 Race to Super Bowl 50. (S) 9831301 **1.05 Top Gear: From A-Z.** (R) (S) 4948671 **2.05 Sign Zone: Harry Hill in Professor Branestawm Returns.** (R) (S) 8820837 **3.05 Sign Zone: Back in Time for Christmas.** (R) (S) 4093479 **4.05 Sign Zone: The Naked Choir with Gareth Malone.** (R) (S) 1212108 **5.05 This Is BBC Two.** (S) 6414978

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. (R) (S) 7934542 **6.15 Dino Dan.** (R) (S) 1924639 **6.25 Sooty.** (R) (S) 1904875 **6.40 Super 4.** (R) (S) 1665610 **7.00 Good Morning Britain.** (S) 83455 **8.30 Lorraine.** (S) 6715829 **9.25 Dickinson's Real Deal.** (R) (S) 9868417 **10.30 Who's Doing the Dishes?** (R) (S) 82542 **11.30 Pick Me!** (R) (S) 59691

12.30 ITV Lunchtime News; (S) Weather. (S) 87402417

12.35 ITV News; (S) Weather. (S) 73597252

12.45 FILM: Evan Almighty (2007) Comedy sequel, starring Steve Carell. (S) 18916639

2.30 Midsomer Murders. A barrister is killed with a lethal dose of morphine and suspicion falls on an ex-convict who has recently returned to the village where he committed murder years earlier. (R) (S) 86982

4.30 FILM: The Queen (2006) Fact-based drama about how the royal family and Tony Blair dealt with the aftermath of the death of Princess Diana. Starring an Oscar-winning Helen Mirren, with Michael Sheen. (S) 13610

6.30 ITV News; (S) Weather. (S) 225271

6.45 ITV Evening News; (S) Weather. (S) 215894

7.00 Emmerdale. Kerry is shocked to learn that Cain has threatened Joanie and takes matters into her own hands, while Lisa tries to resolve the crisis in her family. DS Hart spots a few clues concerning the robbery and closes in on Ross, Pollard makes progress, and Paddy receives a touching gift from Tess – but comes close to being caught out by Rhona. (S) 7813

7.30 FILM: The Amazing Spider-Man (2012) A gifted teenager investigates the mysterious past of his dead parents, leading him to a shady corporation and an incident that imbues him with superhuman powers. A personal tragedy drives him to use his new-found abilities to fight crime, and he is soon drawn into a deadly battle against a former colleague of his father, who has undergone a deadly transformation of his own. Superhero adventure reboot, starring Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone and Rhys Ifans. (S) 63241558

10.10 ITV News; (S) Weather. (S) 926504

10.24 ITV Weather. (S) 288981

10.25 FILM: American Pie (1999) Four teenage boys make a pact to lose their virginity before the high-school prom, but cause huge embarrassment in the process. Comedy, starring Jason Biggs and Chris Klein. (S) 527691

12.05 Jackpot247. 56666360 **3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R) (S) 9344276 **3.40 ITV Nightscreen.** 5836635

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Small Animal Hospital. (S) 2744964

6.45 FILM: Dr Dolittle: Million Dollar Mutts (2009) Comedy sequel, starring Kyla Pratt. (S) 805829

8.15 The Big Bang Theory. (R) (S) 889981 **8.45 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) (S) 5214875 **9.10 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) (S) 4393964 **9.40 The Simpsons.** (R) (S) 3126829 **10.10 The Simpsons.** (R) (S) 7908875

10.40 FILM: Captain Ron (1992) Comedy adventure. (S) 15493078

12.40 FILM: New in Town (2009) Romantic comedy, starring Renee Zellweger. (S) 80486184

2.30 FILM: Coraline (2009) Stop-motion animated fantasy, with the voice of Dakota Fanning. (S) 28403320

4.35 FILM: Gulliver's Travels (2010) Fantasy comedy, starring Jack Black. (S) 67303184

6.10 Channel 4 News. (S) 359542

6.30 Hollyoaks. Maxine refuses to agree to help Patrick die after the vow renewal ceremony, while Lindsey feels isolated from Joe, so she stages a break-in at the Roscoes' house. (S) 894

7.00 Inside Lego at Christmas. Documentary following up on The Secret World of Lego, which went behind the scenes of the secretive, family-owned toy firm earlier this year. More than half of all Lego sales are reported to come during the last three months of the year, and this time, cameras visit the company's factory to discover how workers prepare for the hectic festive season. The programme reveals how new lines are conceptualised and produced in time for Christmas, and details how staff manage the multi-language customer call centre at the busiest time of the year. Also featured is the construction of a Lego train in central London, and a profile of the Addises, who have built a huge Lego sculpture in their Cambridgeshire living room every December for the past 20 years. (R) (S) 1962

8.00 The Supervet at Christmas. Festive edition of the documentary. A sleigh-pulling Alaskan malamute needs both knees replacing with implants, but his owners are forced to make a difficult decision. (R) (S) 5310

9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats End of Year Special. Host Jimmy Carr and team captains Jon Richardson and Sean Lock discuss and dissect the funniest stories that have made the headlines in 2015. (S) 7146

10.00 The Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2015. (R) (S) 89590368

12.05 FILM: Kingdom of Heaven (2005) Historical epic, starring Orlando Bloom. (S) 88869011

2.30 Peep Show. (R) (S) 6214943 **2.55 Peep Show.** (R) (S) 6217030

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Chloe's Closet. (R) (S) 93491320 **6.10 Lily's Driftwood Bay.** (R) (S) 93415900 **6.20 Fireman Sam.** (R) (S) 93411184 **6.30 Wissper.** (R) (S) 24472813 **6.40 Peppa Pig.** (R) (S) 68766558 **6.45 Pip Ahoy!** (R) (S) 24477368 **6.55 Little Princess.** (R) (S) 24457504 **7.10 Bob the Builder.** (R) (S) 1913504 **7.25 Thomas & Friends.** (R) (S) 3877829 **7.35 Noddy in Toyland.** (R) (S) 5960691 **7.50 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) (S) 5981184 **8.05 Peppa Pig.** (R) (S) 9899691 **8.15 Peppa Pig.** (R) (S) 9895875 **8.25 Paw Patrol.** (R) (S) 9819455 **8.35 Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) (S) 5936455 **8.50 Toot the Tiny Tugboat.** (R) (S) 7656320 **9.05 World's Strongest Man 2015.** (R) (S) 9816184 **10.05 Football League Tonight.** (R) (S) 38728252 **11.35 Ice Road Truckers.** (R) (S) 8142504

12.30 FILM: Carry On Nurse (1959) Comedy, starring Hattie Jacques. (S) (bw) 10641320

2.15 FILM: The Dam Busters (1954) Fact-based Second World War drama, starring Michael Redgrave. (S) (bw) 76214417

4.40 What the Dambusters Did Next. (R) (S) 25756165

6.10 Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild. It is June at Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, and cameras follow the newborns as they learn to fight, find food and avoid predators. (R) (S) 1954078

7.00 World's Strongest Man 2015. Action from the third heat of the competition in Malaysia. Reigning champion Zydrunas Savickas took part alongside two-time Britain's Strongest Man Laurence Shahlaei; (S) 5 News Update. (S) 3247558

8.00 Help! I'm Snowtrapped. Real-life stories of people who became trapped by snow, including a skier who was buried alive in Verbier, Switzerland, after triggering an avalanche; (R) (S) 5 News Update. (S) 3150078

9.00 FILM: Flowers in the Attic (2014) Premiere. A widow persuades her children to go into hiding, resulting in them suffering abuse at the hands of their grandmother. Drama, starring Heather Graham and Ellen Burstyn. (S) 94159726

10.45 FILM: Erin Brockovich (2000) A single mother goes to work at a law firm and ends up taking on a company suspected of contaminating a small town's water supply. Fact-based drama, starring Julia Roberts. (S) 33030252

1.15 SuperCasino. 4699924 **3.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Christmas Special.** (R) (S) 6651653 **4.00 Michaela's Wild Challenge.** (R) (S) 18314721 **4.25 Divine Designs.** (R) (S) 57819721 **4.45 House Doctor.** (R) (S) 58361127 **5.10 House Doctor.** (R) (S) 67761905 **5.35 House Doctor.** (R) (S) 47790301

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December30

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. (S) 200547

9.00 FILM: The Princess and the Frog (2009) Disney animated musical fantasy, with the voice of Anika Noni Rose. (S) 63479

10.30 FILM: Chicken Run (2000) Animated comedy, with the voice of Mel Gibson. (S) 6425479

11.50 Bargain Hunt. (R) (S) 7637214

12.50 BBC News. (S) 73574301

1.05 BBC Regional News. (S) 27584363

1.10 Father Brown. (R) (S) 5994924

2.00 FILM: National Treasure: Book of Secrets (2007) Adventure sequel, starring Nicolas Cage. (S) 859634

3.55 Room on the Broom. (R) (S) 9856585

4.20 FILM: Monsters, Inc (2001) Pixar animated comedy, with the voice of John Goodman. (S) 2310011

5.45 Pointless. (R) (S) 385672

6.30 BBC News. (S) 664160

6.45 BBC Regional News. (S) 687011

7.00 Celebrity Mastermind. Liam Fox, Jon-Allan Butterworth, Nick Helm and Kimberley Nixon answer questions on Auf Wiedersehen, Pet, the Terminator films, Alice Cooper, and Agatha Christie's Poirot novels. (S) 5498

7.30 A Question of Sport: Festive Fun. A look back at some of the best moments from Christmas editions of the light-hearted quiz, featuring the likes of Patrick Kielty, Alistair McGowan, Jamelia and Frank Skinner. (S) 189

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents a Christmas special from Lyme Park in Cheshire, where she and toy expert Will Farmer look back at children's Christmas presents dating back to Edwardian times. (S) 5721

9.00 Great Barrier Reef with David Attenborough. New series. Following his visit to the Great Barrier Reef in 1957, the broadcaster returns and uses the latest filming techniques to unlock the secrets of the natural wonder. (S) 5585

10.00 BBC News. (S) 307479

10.15 BBC Regional News; (S) National Lottery Update. (S) 398856

10.25 Catherine Tate's Nan. The freehold on Nan's block of flats is bought up by property developers. (S) 350437

10.55 Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special. The doting mother's wish to have a safe and peaceful Christmas at home is frustrated at every turn. The first of two festive instalments, written by and starring Brendan O'Carroll. (R) (S) 522924

11.35 Comic Relief 2015: Thanks a Billion! Lenny Henry revisits comedy highlights from this year's charity event, and joins John Bishop and Alex Jones in detailing how funds raised have helped people all over the world. (R) (S) 500672

12.40 BBC News. (S) 69467306

BBC2

6.20 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) (S) 3581498 **7.20 Sign Zone: This Wild Life.** (R) (S) 3917108 **7.50 Sign Zone: Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip.** (R) (S) 7077634

8.20 FILM: Waterloo (1970) Historical drama, starring Rod Steiger. (S) 13042081

10.30 The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure. (R) (S) 90943 **11.30 The Great Pottery Throw Down.** (R) (S) 76740 **12.30 The Two Ronnies Talking Comedy.** (R) (S) 34634 **1.00 The Bear Family and Me.** The bears face danger when the hunting season begins. Last in the series. (R) (S) 39189

2.00 Coast. Nick forges a path around Jersey. (R) (S) 79856

3.00 Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth. (R) (S) 9672

4.00 Flog It! (R) (S) 1353498

4.50 Natural World: Attenborough's Fabulous Frogs. (R) (S) 1595030

5.50 FILM: Alice in Wonderland (2010) Fantasy adventure, starring Mia Wasikowska. (S) 85372295

7.30 Christmas University Challenge. Two teams of graduates compete on behalf of their former universities in the first semi-final of the academic quiz's festive series. Jeremy Paxman hosts. (S) 289

8.00 Top Gear: From A to Z. John Bishop narrates the second of two programmes celebrating the highlights of the Jeremy Clarkson, James May and Richard Hammond era, via an alphabetical list. (S) 3363

9.00 Charlie Brooker 2015 Wipe. The broadcaster takes a satirical look back at the events of the past 12 months, including the beginning of Corbyn-mania and a Tory majority, and the end of Page Three. (S) 3127

10.00 A Gert Lush Christmas. Comedian Russell Howard's debut comedy drama. Dan Colman is about to introduce the woman of his dreams to his crazy but adorable family at Christmas, but it may not go to plan. (R) (S) 6214

11.00 Mock the Week Christmas Special. Host Dara O Briain is back with the comedy panel show's traditional helping of seasonal silliness, featuring the usual mix of out-takes, highlights and unseen material. (R) (S) 6108

11.30 Backchat End of Year Show 2015. Jack Whitehall and his father Michael review the past 12 months, picking apart some of the highs and lows of 2015 in an end-of-year special. (R) (S) 564295

12.15 FILM: The Shipping News (2001) Drama, starring Kevin Spacey. (S) 613798

2.00 FILM: Sign Zone: Behind the Candelabra (2013) Biopic of Liberace, starring Michael Douglas. (S) 119696

3.55 This Is BBC Two. (S) 40664615

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. (R) (S) 7901214 **6.15 Dino Dan.** (R) (S) 1984011 **6.25 Sooty.** (R) (S) 1971547 **6.40 Super 4.** (R) (S) 1632382 **7.00 Good Morning Britain.** (S) 19634 **8.30 Lorraine.** (S) 6602301 **9.25 Dickinson's Real Deal.** (R) (S) 9835189 **10.30 Judge Rinder.** (R) (S) 94769 **11.30 Who's Doing the Dishes?** (R) (S) 70566

12.30 FILM: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971) Musical fantasy, with Gene Wilder. (S) 80459030

2.20 ITV Lunchtime News; (S) Weather. (S) 43521856

2.25 ITV News; (S) Weather. (S) 43511479

2.35 Midsomer Murders. Barnaby investigates murders echoing the plots of horror films. (R) (S) 38365498

4.30 Dinosaur Britain. Part one of two. The lives of the dinosaurs that once roamed the nation. (R) (S) 88301

5.30 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs at Christmas. The broadcaster spreads festive cheer at Battersea Dogs & Cats Home in London. (R) (S) 66214

6.30 ITV News; (S) Weather. (S) 699856

6.45 ITV Evening News; (S) Weather. (S) 689479

7.00 Emmerdale. Ross protests his innocence to Debbie in the face of new evidence which points to his involvement in the shooting, and Lawrence plans a New Year's party. (S) 7586

7.30 Coronation Street. Kevin is shocked when he catches Tyrone dipping into the garage's petty cash to pay off his loan, while Rob is furious when Johnny tells him that Carla knows the truth. (S) 585

8.00 Big Star's Little Star. Stephen Mulhern hosts a festive edition of the entertainment show, in which children spill the beans about their famous relatives. This special features Mrs Brown's Boys actress Fiona O'Carroll and her son Felix, former footballer Robbie Fowler and his son Jacob, and ex-cricketer Michael Vaughan and his son Archie. (S) 7189

9.00 All New It'll Be Alright on the Night. Griff Rhys Jones presents a compilation of out-takes from the world of film and TV, including foul-ups from Mr Selfridge, Doc Martin, and Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell. (S) 4063

10.00 ITV News; (S) Weather. (S) 392547

10.14 ITV Weather. (S) 393301

10.15 FILM: American Pie 2 (2001) The teenage friends get together after their first year at college and set out to broaden their sexual horizons over the summer. Comedy sequel, with Jason Biggs. (S) 367160

12.10 Jackpot247. 35891677 **3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R) (S) 9311948

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) (S) 8615363 **6.25 Small Animal Hospital.** (S) 2449112

7.10 FILM: The Love Bug (1968) Disney comedy, starring Dean Jones. (S) 37347924

9.15 The Big Bang Theory. (R) (S) 5925769 **9.40 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) (S) 3013301 **10.10 The Simpsons.** (R) (S) 7975547

10.40 FILM: The Phantom (1996) Superhero adventure, starring Billy Zane. (S) 15453450

12.40 FILM: Chalet Girl (2011) Comedy, starring Felicity Jones. (S) 80444108

2.35 FILM: Freaky Friday (2003) Disney comedy remake, starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan. (S) 38344905

4.35 FILM: Sunshine on Leith (2013) Premiere. Musical, starring George MacKay and Kevin Guthrie. (S) 18575363

6.20 Channel 4 News. (S) 181194

6.30 Hollyoaks. Alfie gets a kitchen job at The Hutch so he can get some of Tony's DNA and prove he is his dad, while Lindsey urges Kim to keep quiet and Sienna breaks down. (S) 943

7.00 Gogglesprogs. The nation's children share their opinions on the best and worst of 2015's TV, from the cakes on The Great British Bake off, to big news stories like the general election. (R) (S) 2011

8.00 What Britain Bought in 2015. Retail consultant Mary Portas looks back on how consumers shopped during the past year and what the weekly £6billion shopping habit says about the nation. (S) 8059

9.00 24 Hours in A&E. An 84-year-old woman is referred to St Georges for urgent treatment for dangerously high potassium levels, while a 74-year-old man is brought in after suffering a suspected stroke. (S) 8295

10.00 The Millionaire Party Planner. Following Liz Taylor and her team as they strive to create the best parties on the planet, including the Marina Dalglish charity ball and an exclusive 40th birthday party. (S) 8099011

11.05 FILM: Fast & Furious 5 (2011) A fugitive assembles a team of criminals for a heist in Rio, but the FBI's top manhunter is on their trail. Action adventure, starring Vin Diesel and Dwayne Johnson. (S) 60663566

1.30 Rude Tube. (S) 9185238 **2.25 Friday Night Dinner.** (R) (S) 3647509 **2.55 Friday Night Dinner.** (R) (S) 6260122 **3.20 Friday Night Dinner.** (R) (S) 70101306 **3.50 Gadget Man.** (R) (S) 12537275 **4.15 Benchmark.** (S) 1282967 **5.10 Deal or No Deal.** (R) (S) 5346238 **5.55 Small Animal Hospital.** (S) 3543219

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: The WotWots. (R) (S) 93468092 **6.10 Chloe's Closet.** (R) (S) 93482672 **6.20 Lily's Driftwood Bay.** (R) (S) 93488856 **6.30 Fireman Sam.** (R) (S) 24449585 **6.40 Wissper.** (R) (S) 24445769 **6.50 Peppa Pig.** (R) (S) 68659214 **6.55 Pip Ahoy!** (R) (S) 68649837 **7.05 Little Princess.** (R) (S) 5033127 **7.20 Bob the Builder.** (R) (S) 3765030 **7.30 Thomas & Friends.** (R) (S) 5938092 **7.45 Noddy in Toyland.** (R) (S) 5933547 **8.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) (S) 8924363 **8.15 Peppa Pig.** (R) (S) 9862547 **8.25 Peppa Pig.** (R) (S) 9886127 **8.35 Paw Patrol.** (R) (S) 5903127 **8.50 Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) (S) 7632740 **9.00 Toot the Tiny Tugboat.** (R) (S) 4029127 **9.15 Wanda and the Alien.** (R) (S) 1398769 **9.25 World's Strongest Man 2015.** (R) (S) 9871011

10.25 FILM: Carry On Constable (1960) Comedy, starring Sid James. (S) (bw) 74483301

12.10 FILM: Carry On Spying (1964) Comedy, starring Kenneth Williams. (S) (bw) 6573617

1.55 FILM: Annie Get Your Gun (1950) Premiere. Musical Western, starring Betty Hutton. (S) 82290108

4.05 FILM: Calamity Jane (1953) Musical comedy Western, starring Doris Day. (S) 38573634

6.10 Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild. Cameras document autumn events at Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, a time for the red deer rut, when stags battle for the right to breed. (R) (S) 1914450

7.00 World's Strongest Man 2015. Action from the fourth heat of the competition in Malaysia. Britain's Mark Felix took part alongside the likes of Russian Alexander Lysenko and American Jerry Pritchett; (S) 5 News Update. (S) 3134030

8.00 Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Snow. Ben meets a 40-year-old British woman who gave up her old life as a communications manager to train huskies inside the Arctic Circle in northern Sweden. Last in the series; (R) (S) 5 News Update. (S) 3110450

9.00 FILM: Stephen King's Big Driver (2014) Premiere. A mystery writer plots revenge against the serial killer who attacked her and left her for dead. Thriller based on a short story by Stephen King, starring Maria Bello. (S) 71372856

10.50 FILM: Stephen King's Needful Things (1993) The people of a small town find their hearts' desires in an antique dealer's shop, but pay a sinister price. Horror, based on Stephen King's novel, with Ed Harris and Max von Sydow. (S) 69410127

1.10 SuperCasino. 4657948 **3.10 On Benefits: Cashing in for Christmas.** (R) (S) 6628325 **4.00 Michaela's Wild Challenge.** (R) (S) 18381493 **4.25 Divine Designs.** (R) (S) 57886493

Folkestone Lions Club

Charity Boxing Day Dip - Saturday 26th December 2015

Registration at The Ship Inn, The Stade, Folkstone from 11.45am

Fancy Dress judging on the Sunny Sands Beach at 1.15pm

The Dip at 1.30 pm

For further details contact 01303 275984

New Year's Eve

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. (S) 667832

9.00 FILM: Tinker Bell and the Secret of the Wings (2012) Premiere. Disney animated adventure. (S) 9821986

10.05 CBeebies Alice in Wonderland. (S) 5428851

10.55 FILM: The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn (2011) Animated adventure, with the voice of Jamie Bell. (S) 46016870

12.30 Bargain Hunt. (R) (S) 57967

1.00 BBC News; (S) Weather. (S) 27786493

1.10 BBC Regional News. (S) 27572528

1.20 Harry Hill in Professor Branestawm Returns. (R) (S) 1285948

2.20 Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers. (R) (S) 94774783

2.50 FILM: Up (2009) Animated adventure, with the voice of Ed Asner. (S) 5243238

4.15 Stick Man. (R) (S) 970870

4.45 Take That: These Days on Tour. (R) (S) 946073

5.45 Pointless. (R) (S) 733219

6.30 BBC News; (S) Weather. (S) 777122

6.50 BBC Regional News. (S) 115211

7.00 Celebrity Mastermind. Lisa Maxwell, Gary Delaney, Simon Greenall and Conor McNamara answer questions on Judy Garland, George Romero's zombie films, the D-Day landings and Irish whiskey. (S) 3219

7.30 Roald Dahl's Esio Trot. Dustin Hoffman and Judi Dench star in this adaptation of Roald Dahl's story about retired bachelor Mr Hoppy, who hits upon a cunning plan to romance his neighbour Mrs Silver. (R) (S) 69211

9.00 BBC News; (S) Weather. (S) 101986

9.15 FILM: Mrs Brown's Boys D'Movie (2014) Premiere. The indomitable Irish matriarch fights to defend Dublin's famous street market from being sold off to developers. Comedy, starring Brendan O'Carroll and Jennifer Gibney. (S) 160986

10.45 The Graham Norton Show. Graham hosts a star-studded New Year's Eve special, chatting to Oscar-winner Eddie Redmayne and Hollywood heavyweights Jennifer Lawrence, Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg. (S) 628696

11.30 Bryan Adams Rocks Big Ben Live. The Canadian rocker blasts out his greatest hits to bring in the new year, only pausing to take a break for the chimes of Big Ben and the traditional fireworks display. (S) 80344

12.00 New Year's Eve Fireworks. (S) 4689265 **12.10 Bryan Adams Rocks Big Ben Live.** (S) 6372913 **12.45 Mrs Brown's Boys.** (R) (S) 69081 **1.15 Miranda Hart – My What I Call Live Show.** (R) (S) 790710 **2.15 Would I Lie to You? At Christmas.** (R) (S) 57246 **2.45 Weather for the Week Ahead.** (S) 8587772 **2.50 BBC News.** (S) 95186130

BBC2

6.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) (S) 22967 **7.00 Flog It!** (R) (S) 1323122 **7.45 Sign Zone: This Wild Life.** (R) (S) 37493 **8.15 Sign Zone: Great British Menu.** (R) (S) 616035

8.45 FILM: Father of the Bride (1950) Comedy, starring Spencer Tracy and Elizabeth Taylor. (S) (bw) 522677

10.15 Natural World: A Bear with a Bounty. (R) (S) 689141

11.15 FILM: Custer of the West (1967) Historical biopic. (S) 97778702

1.30 FILM: Ice Station Zebra (1968) Arctic adventure, starring Rock Hudson. (S) 94180306

3.50 World's Sneakiest Animals. The devious tactics and sneaky tricks that animals use to survive. (R) (S) 7595122

4.50 Christmas Shopping Fever 2015: John Lewis and the Retail Race. (R) (S) 1562702

5.50 FILM: The Odd Life of Timothy Green (2012) Premiere. Fantasy, starring Jennifer Garner. (S) 85349967

7.30 Christmas University Challenge. Two teams of distinguished graduates compete on behalf of their former universities in the second semi-final of the festive edition of the academic quiz. Jeremy Paxman hosts. (S) 580

8.00 Gareth Malone's Great Choir Reunion. Gareth tracks down some of the singers from the Military Wives and the workplace choirs he formed in Sing While You Work, before rehearsals begin for reunion concert. (S) 9344

9.00 FILM: The Sapphires (2012) Premiere. Four Aboriginal Australian singers are propelled to stardom when they entertain American troops in the Vietnam War. Drama, starring Deborah Mailman. (S) 49272899

10.40 Live at the Apollo Christmas Special 2015. Nina Conti hosts a special festive edition of the stand-up comedy show from the Hammersmith Apollo, featuring Tanyalee Davis, Hal Cruttenden and Josh Widdicombe. Last in the series. (R) (S) 180035

11.10 Jools' Annual Hootenanny 2015. Jools Holland brings in the new year with performances by Tom Jones, Jess Glynne, Paul Weller, Hozier, James Bay, Beth Hart, Jeff Beck, Future Islands and KT Tunstall. (S) 455948

1.10 Best of Glastonbury 2015. A round-up of highlights from June's Glastonbury Festival of Contemporary Performing Arts at Worthy Farm in Somerset. (R) (S) 638449 **3.10 Sign Zone: Snow Chick: A Penguin's Tale.** (R) (S) 7381371 **4.10 Sign Zone: Back in Time for Christmas.** (R) (S) 6238062 **5.10 This Is BBC Two.** (S) 6036333

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. (R) (S) 7978986 **6.15 Dino Dan.** (R) (S) 1951783 **6.25 Sooty.** (R) (S) 1948219 **6.40 Super 4.** (S) 1609054 **7.00 Good Morning Britain.** (S) 30509 **8.30 Lorraine.** (S) 6679073 **9.25 Dickinson's Real Deal.** (R) (S) 9895561 **10.30 Judge Rinder.** (R) (S) 17324 **11.30 Who's Doing the Dishes?** (R) (S) 77851

12.30 ITV Lunchtime News; (S) Weather. (S) 73532325

12.40 FILM: Dragonheart (1996) Fantasy adventure, starring Dennis Quaid. (S) 80422986

2.30 Dinosaur Britain. (R) (S) 81899

3.30 The Chase. (R) (S) 37344

4.30 Downton Abbey – The Finale. The Crawley family saga concludes with one last festive special. (R) (S) 68306

6.30 ITV News; (S) Weather. (S) 264211

6.45 ITV Evening News; (S) Weather. (S) 919144

7.00 Emmerdale. Andy is forced to make a confession to Robert, leading to a fateful encounter with Ross, and Bernice has a stressful time organising the Home Farm party. (S) 7122

8.00 Coronation Street. Emily announces she has booked her flight and leaves for Peru on New Year's Day, while Ken tells Audrey how much he values her friendship, but the moment is ruined by Nessa. (S) 7035

8.30 Panda Babies. Vet Steve Leonard visits three panda reserves in China, following the development of several of these endangered animals from newborn to one-year-old toddlers. (S) 7752528

9.35 Birds of a Feather. Sharon and Tracey discover Dorien has been keeping a secret for more than 50 years and decide to get involved, but the novelist is reluctant to confront her past. (R) (S) 447325

10.05 Piers Meets Cilla Black. Another chance to see Piers Morgan's chat with the entertainer, who died in August, and whose long career was marked by extraordinary highs tempered with tragic personal setbacks. (R) (S) 673851

11.05 The Nation's Favourite Bond Song. Documentary telling the stories behind 20 songs from the 007 movies, with contributions from Jonathan Ross, Moby, Jools Holland, Roger Moore, Honor Blackman and Naomie Harris. (R) (S) 256528

11.55 ITV News and Weather and New Year's Bongs. (S) 977899 **12.10 The Nation's Favourite Bond Song.** (R) (S) 7891517

12.40 FILM: Goldfinger (1964) James Bond adventure, starring Sean Connery, Gert Frobe and Honor Blackman. (S) 556246

2.30 ITV Nightscreen. 58289159 **5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) (S) 3709791

CHANNEL 4

6.40 FILM: Explorers (1985) Sci-fi adventure, starring Ethan Hawke. (S) 15378122

8.40 The Big Bang Theory. (R) (S) 2620986 **9.10 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) (S) 5986870 **9.35 The Simpsons.** (R) (S) 3081702 **10.05 The Simpsons.** (R) (S) 7943948 **10.35 The Simpsons.** (R) (S) 5046031

11.05 FILM: Imagine That (2009) Fantasy comedy, starring Eddie Murphy. (S) 40555580

1.10 FILM: The Rocketeer (1991) Sci-fi adventure, starring Bill Campbell. (S) 49637275

3.20 FILM: Honey, I Shrunk the Kids (1989) Disney comedy, starring Rick Moranis. (S) 39206412

5.20 Channel 4 News. (S) 8486677

5.35 Hollyoaks. Kim confiscates her sister's kill kit. (S) 492325

6.35 Celebrity Couples Come Dine with Me. Union J singer Jaymi Hensley, TV presenter Gail Porter and ex-EastEnders actor Ricky Groves team up with their partners and compete to be the best dinner hosts. (S) 772493

7.30 TFI New Year's Eve. Chris Evans prepares to welcome in the new year with a mix of chat, raucous stunts and music, with Olly Murs, Quentin Tarantino, Sia and New Order, the Vaccines and Izzy Bizu. (S) 94851

9.00 Alan Carr's New Year Specstacular. Alan Carr returns with another end-of-year show, inviting celebrity guests including David Guetta, Danny Dyer, Mel B, Greg Davies, Katherine Ryan, Kelly Brook and Nish Kumar to join him at Channel 4 HQ to welcome 2016 in a suitably raucous fashion, with Ellie Goulding and the Vamps on hand to provide the music. As was the case with last year's festivities, viewers can expect the flamboyant host's guests to take an active role in the evening's frivolities, joining him for entertaining games and specially produced sketches, and the studio audience will also be required to pull their weight in the entertainment stakes, as Alan heads into the stalls to hear their extraordinary stories. (S) 55316141

11.10 8 Out of 10 Cats End of Year Special. Host Jimmy Carr and team captains Jon Richardson and Sean Lock discuss and dissect the funniest stories that have made the headlines in 2015. (R) (S) 962677

12.10 The Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2015. (R) (S) 500807 **2.10 Catastrophe.** (R) (S) 2853333 **2.35 Catastrophe.** (R) (S) 9395710 **3.05 Catastrophe.** (R) (S) 50489081 **3.35 Gadget Man.** (R) (S) 44304913 **4.00 Location, Location, Location.** (R) (S) 6743371 **4.50 Deal or No Deal.** (R) 6412791

5.40 FILM: Mysterious Island (1961) Sci-fi adventure. (S) 38475807

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: The WotWots. (R) (S) 93435764 **6.10 Lily's Driftwood Bay.** (R) (S) 10246798 **6.15 Fireman Sam.** (R) (S) 96169967 **6.30 Wissper.** (R) (S) 68606122 **6.35 Peppa Pig.** (R) (S) 68605493 **6.40 Pip Ahoy!** (R) (S) 24496493 **6.55 Little Princess.** (R) (S) 68616509 **7.05 Bob the Builder.** (R) (S) 5000899 **7.20 Thomas & Friends.** (R) (S) 3732702 **7.30 Noddy in Toyland.** (R) (S) 5905764 **7.45 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) (S) 6292122 **7.55 Peppa Pig.** (R) (S) 6298306 **8.05 Peppa Pig.** (R) (S) 9842783 **8.10 Paw Patrol.** (R) (S) 8915615 **8.25 Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) (S) 8994122 **8.45 Toot the Tiny Tugboat.** (R) (S) 5969783 **9.00 World's Strongest Man 2015.** (R) (S) 1304847

9.50 FILM: Carry On Teacher (1959) Comedy, starring Ted Ray. (S) (bw) 21437325

11.30 Sinatra 100: An All-Star Grammy Concert. (R) (S) 59773325

1.50 FILM: One Chance (2013) Fact-based comedy drama, starring James Corden. (S) 82279615

3.55 FILM: The Wizard of Oz (1939) Musical fantasy, starring Judy Garland. (S) 77407035

6.00 Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild. Charting the effects of a mild winter at Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, as red deer move to higher ground and salmon endure six months without food. Last in the series; (R) (S) 5 News Update. (S) 1674702

6.55 World's Strongest Man 2015. Action from the final heat of the competition in Malaysia, as reigning Britain's Strongest Man Eddie Hall faced stiff competition from the likes of Mike Burke and Matjaz Belsak; (S) 5 News Update. (S) 39810293

8.00 Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Winter Wonderland. The adventurer travels to Alaska to visit a couple who hiked 4,000 miles to get to their new home, where they are now bringing up their two children in a small coastal village. (R) (S) 3187122

9.00 Britain's Best Loved Double Acts. A countdown of the nation's favourite duos from the worlds of TV, film, music, animation and sport, including the Two Ronnies, Morecambe & Wise and Ant and Dec. (R) (S) 12775986

11.55 Most Shocking Christmas TV Moments. A merry romp through the most inappropriate, outrageous and appallingly atrocious Christmas television turkeys of all time, featuring contributions from some of those involved. (R) (S) 4538696 **1.55 SuperCasino.** 33814536 **3.10 Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild.** (R) (S) 4357975 **4.00 Michaela's Wild Challenge.** (R) (S) 14187449 **4.25 Divine Designs.** (R) (S) 14199284 **4.50 House Doctor.** (R) (S) 51434371 **5.10 House Doctor.** (R) (S) 20763159

Furley Park Primary Academy

Ofsted rated 'Good with Outstanding Features'

Parents Tours 6th and 7th January 2016

Please call 01233 501732 and ask for 'The Magpie Room' to book your place and find out what Furley Park Primary Academy can offer you and your child. We look forward to your visit!

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New Year's Day

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. (S) 214541

9.00 FILM: Turbo (2013) Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of Ryan Reynolds. (S) 9668710

10.25 FILM: Monsters vs Aliens (2009) Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Reese Witherspoon. (S) 1472791

11.55 Top of the Pops New Year. (S) 2354420 **12.55 The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message.** (S) 34197474

1.00 BBC News at One; Weather. (S) 12960642

1.10 BBC Regional News. (S) 62047159

1.15 FILM: The Sound of Music (1965) Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, starring Julie Andrews. (S) 13364772

4.05 Shaun the Sheep: The Farmer's Llamas. (R) (S) 1028371

4.30 FILM: Wreck-It Ralph (2012) Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of John C Reilly. (S) 20844277

6.05 BBC News. (S) 854555

6.20 BBC Regional News. (S) 374994

6.30 EastEnders. Mick and Linda prepare for the wedding they have dreaming about since they were teenagers, only for Dean – finally ousted by the entire family – to reappear seeking revenge. (S) 71

7.00 Billionaire Boy. Len Spud and his 12-year-old son Joe become billionaires when Len invents a new toilet roll. However, the money fails to bring them happiness. John Thomson stars. (S) 4772

8.00 EastEnders. With Dean now outed as the black sheep of the family, he continues his revenge plot against the Carters. (S) 9569

8.30 Dickensian. Compeyson goes to desperate lengths to make Miss Havisham notice him, and Martha Cratchit's wedding plans are thrown into turmoil by an unexpected knock at the door. (S) 9246

9.00 Sherlock. The apparent ghost of a woman prowls the streets with a thirst for revenge. One-off special episode set in Victorian London, starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman. (S) 6642

10.30 Mrs Brown's Boys New Year Special. A handsome stranger reveals he only has eyes for one special woman – Agnes Brown. The second of two festive instalments of the comedy, written by and starring Brendan O'Carroll. (S) 578642

11.10 BBC News; (S) Weather. (S) 925246

11.25 BBC Regional News; (S) National Lottery Update. (S) 297975

11.35 Adele at the BBC. The singer-songwriter chats to Graham Norton about her life and career. (R) (S) 254975

12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead. (S) 8124227 **12.55 BBC News.** (S) 54402260

BBC2

6.35 FILM: Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas (2003) Animated adventure, with the voice of Brad Pitt. (S) 4952420

7.50 Natural World: Honey Badgers – Masters of Mayhem. (R) (S) 4984265

8.50 FILM: Viva Las Vegas (1964) Musical, starring Elvis Presley. (S) 9134246

10.15 Darcey's Ballet Heroes. (R) (S) 141420 **11.15 New Year's Day Vienna Concert 2016.** (S) 631888

12.45 FILM: Little Women (1994) Period drama. (S) 40435352

2.40 FILM: The Eagle Has Landed (1976) Second World War spy adventure, with Michael Caine. (S) 56193062

4.50 Gorilla Family and Me. Part two of two. Gordon Buchanan revisits the apes. (R) (S) 1470604

5.50 The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message. The Most Rev Justin Welby delivers his New Year address. (R) (S) 111352

5.55 FILM: The Terminal (2004) Comedy, starring Tom Hanks and Catherine Zeta-Jones. (S) 97444888

8.00 Christmas University Challenge 2015. Two teams of distinguished graduates compete on behalf of their former universities in the final of the festive edition of the quiz. Jeremy Paxman hosts. Last in the series. (S) 1081

8.30 The Many Faces of Ronnie Corbett. Like many of his generation Ronnie Corbett had a strong career on stage, but was 36 when his first big television break arrived in the shape of the ground-breaking Frost Report – a live satire that also introduced John Cleese and Ronnie Barker. His co-starring role in The Two Ronnies has earned him a chapter in the book of all-time comedy greats, but this documentary also reveals some lesser-known details of his life, such as his days as a devout teenage organist and first screen role in You're Only Young Twice. (S) 78642

9.30 The One Ronnie. Comedy show from 2010 in which Ronnie Corbett celebrates his 80th birthday with a series of sketches. Featuring guest stars including David Walliams and Miranda Hart. (R) (S) 910284

10.20 FILM: Catch Me If You Can (2002) A conman lies his way across America, posing as a pilot, a doctor and a lawyer, while outwitting the FBI at every turn. Fact-based drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hanks. (S) 19678739

12.30 FILM: Shadow of a Doubt (1943) (S) (bw) 440685

2.15 Top Gear: From A to Z. (R) (S) 788901 **3.15 Sign Zone: Hugh's War on Waste.** (R) (S) 854163 **4.15 Sign Zone: The Secrets of the Mona Lisa.** (R) (S) 308753 **5.15 This Is BBC Two.** (S) 2955294

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. (R) (S) 9263888 **6.10 Dino Dan.** (R) (S) 8003081 **6.25 Sooty.** (R) (S) 9266975 **6.40 Super 4.** (R) (S) 9668352 **7.00 Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** (R) (S) 6407807 **7.15 Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** (R) (S) 8236536 **7.30 Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** (R) (S) 5577284 **7.45 Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** (R) (S) 5572739 **8.00 Oddbods.** (R) (S) 5782826 **8.05 A Grizzly New Year Tale.** (R) (S) 2975517 **8.35 Almost Naked Animals.** (R) (S) 5505791 **8.50 Almost Naked Animals.** (R) (S) 5522468 **9.10 Horrid Henry.** (R) (S) 5016536 **9.25 Dickinson's Real Deal.** (R) (S) 3564913 **10.30 Judge Rinder.** (R) (S) 20517 **11.30 Who's Doing the Dishes?** (R) (S) 2346401 **12.25 Celebrity Squares.** (R) (S) 6267642

1.10 ITV Lunchtime News; (S) Weather. (S) 12942246

1.25 FILM: Dr No (1962) James Bond spy thriller, starring Sean Connery. (S) 31881159

3.35 Midsomer Murders. (R) (S) 215420

5.35 Wild River with Ray Mears. (S) 7714401

6.40 ITV Evening News; (S) Weather. (S) 175710

7.00 Emmerdale. Debbie visits Charity in prison, and the experience leaves her determined to leave town for good, while Chas is shocked by Gordon's account of his life since they split up. (S) 6159

7.30 Coronation Street. Carla tells Johnny she will keep his secret if he leaves the factory and moves away, and gets more than she bargained for during a game of roulette with Robert. (S) 81

8.00 Gino's Italian Escape – Islands in the Sun. Gino D'Acampo ends his tour of Sicily by making cannoli, climbing the craters of Mount Etna and visiting a town that featured in the Godfather movies. Last in the series. (S) 5807

8.30 Coronation Street. Carla swears Robert to secrecy after their moment of passion, and Roy tries to forget the incriminating letter which reveals Alan had an affair with Cathy's sister, Nessa. (S) 7642

9.00 The Big Quiz – Coronation Street v Emmerdale. Stephen Mulhern hosts as stars from the soaps are tested on the biggest events and the funniest moments in the Yorkshire Dales and on the cobbles during 2015. (S) 8352

10.00 ITV News; (S) Weather. (S) 607420

10.15 The Jonathan Ross Show Christmas Special. (R) (S) 8757994

11.20 FILM: American Pie: The Wedding (2003) The friends reunite to celebrate Jim and Michelle's forthcoming trip to the altar – but events quickly spiral out of control. Comedy sequel, with Jason Biggs and Alyson Hannigan. (S) 453130

1.00 Jackpot247. 53376 **3.00 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) (S) 8582463

CHANNEL 4

7.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) (S) 7856468

7.55 The Big Bang Theory. (R) (S) 7847913

8.20 FILM: Planet 51 (2009) Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Dwayne Johnson. (S) 13170333

10.10 The Simpsons. (R) (S) 8147246 **10.40 The Simpsons.** (R) (S) 9125130

11.15 FILM: Inspector Gadget (1999) Disney comedy adventure, starring Matthew Broderick. (S) 61632468

12.55 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Cheltenham and Musselburgh. (S) 60096474

3.35 FILM: The Golden Compass (2007) Fantasy adventure, starring Dakota Blue Richards and Nicole Kidman. (S) 50482062

5.50 Channel 4 News. (S) 197772

6.00 FILM: Tangled (2010) A baby princess's hair has mystical powers, so an evil witch kidnaps her and locks her in a tower, hoping to use the magic to fend off old age. When the princess is a teenager with 70-foot long tresses, she escapes with the aid of a bandit and goes in search of her home, but the witch is not going to let her go without a fight. Disney animated comedy based on the Rapunzel story, with the voices of Mandy Moore and Zachary Levi. (S) 5401

8.00 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. New series. Jamie Oliver and Jimmy Doherty present dishes for the weekend from their cafe on Southend Pier. In the first of this third series, the pair are joined by Orlando Bloom, who shows off his sword training when he rustles up a Moroccan tagine. Jamie prepares fragrant, aromatic Asian seafood parcels, while Jimmy takes on the great British banger, showing how to make a DIY version that can be trusted. The presenters also uncover a by-product of the goat dairy industry – delicious meat that is currently being binned. (S) 6130

9.00 FILM: A Good Day to Die Hard (2013) Premiere. John McClane goes to Russia having received word that his estranged son Jack is in trouble with the law. He is surprised to discover Jack is secretly a CIA agent, and father and son join forces to take on the Russian Mob, who are engaged in a plot to steal nuclear weapons. Action adventure sequel, starring Bruce Willis. (S) 6517

11.00 Rude Tube: Welcome to 2016. A real-life Alan Partridge, 50 Shades of Grey in Lego and Darth Vader on a mini Segway are among the items featured as Alex Zane marks the end of 2015 with a series compilation. (S) 66380352

1.10 FILM: Damien: Omen II (1978) Horror sequel. (S) 425937

3.00 Friday Night Dinner. (R) (S) 60999208

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: The WotWots. (R) (S) 89709791 **6.10 Chloe's Closet.** (R) (S) 89723371 **6.20 Lily's Driftwood Bay.** (R) (S) 89729555 **6.30 Fireman Sam.** (R) (S) 55448555 **6.40 Wissper.** (S) 55444739 **6.50 Peppa Pig.** (R) (S) 82915915 **6.55 Pip Ahoy!** (R) (S) 99660848 **7.05 Little Princess.** (R) (S) 3905791 **7.20 Bob the Builder.** (R) (S) 9139178 **7.30 Thomas & Friends.** (R) (S) 5955420 **7.45 Noddy in Toyland.** (R) (S) 9159159 **7.55 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) (S) 5974555 **8.10 Peppa Pig.** (R) (S) 1145536 **8.15 Peppa Pig.** (R) (S) 1508975 **8.25 Paw Patrol.** (R) (S) 5944449 **8.40 Milkshake! Bop Box.** (R) (S) 7058468 **8.50 Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) (S) 7038604 **9.05 Toot the Tiny Tugboat.** (R) (S) 2247710 **9.20 Milkshake! Monkey.** (R) (S) 2399265 **9.25 Wanda and the Alien.** (R) (S) 2389888

9.35 FILM: Thomas & Friends: Sodor's Legend of the Lost Treasure (2015) Premiere. Animated adventure, featuring the voice of Joseph May. (S) 32187739

10.50 FILM: Carry On Cabby (1963) Comedy, starring Sid James and Hattie Jacques. (S) (bw) 61356401

12.35 FILM: Harry and the Hendersons (1987) Comedy, starring John Lithgow. (S) 80332772

2.45 FILM: Dracula: Dead and Loving It (1995) Horror spoof, starring Leslie Nielsen. (S) 68738975

4.30 FILM: Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes (1984) Drama, starring Christopher Lambert. (S) 3004888

7.00 World's Strongest Man Final 2015. Action from the Grand Final of the competition, which took place in Malaysia, as the 10 competitors who made it past the heats went head to head for the trophy. Last in the series; (S) 5 News Update. (S) 6744081

8.00 Christmas with the Double Acts. Festive fun featuring some of the greatest double acts on the small screen, including Morecambe and Wise, French and Saunders, the Two Ronnies, Ant and Dec, and Cannon and Ball; (R) (S) 5 News Update. (S) 6720401

9.00 An Audience with Ken Dodd. Comedy and entertainment from the Liverpudlian comedian, as he celebrates his long career in showbusiness with the help of an all-star audience. (R) (S) 48915420

10.55 Greatest Stand-Up Comedians. A countdown of the 50 funniest people to have performed stand-up routines, featuring Tommy Cooper, Joan Rivers and Robin Williams. With contributions by Paul Hogan and Ross Noble. (R) (S) 70588888

1.55 SuperCasino. 33881208 **3.10 Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild.** (R) (S) 4324647 **4.00 Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild.** (R) (S) 5991537 **4.45 House Doctor.** (R) (S) 47181276

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Sights and sounds

DARCEY'S BALLET HEROES

Christmas Day, BBC2, 8.50pm

Much-loved ballet star and Strictly judge Darcey Bussell undertakes a very personal journey to meet the heroes and dancers who transformed male ballet; Arthur Mitchell, Anthony Dowell, Peter Schauffus, Irek Mukhamedov, Carlos Acosta and others. Athletic, seductive, complicated, misunderstood: male ballet dancers don't conform. After almost disappearing from ballet's centre stage in the 19th century, pushed aside by the newly arrived pointe-shoed, tutu toting, prima ballerinas, over the last 100 years the spotlight has dramatically shifted back to men. From dressing rooms and rehearsal studios in London, Copenhagen, New York and beyond, Darcey takes us behind the scenes and reveals the secrets and the choreography that bring the subject matter vividly to life. The film is rich in archive, insightful commentary, personal anecdotes, and uniquely intimate access that few - other than a former Royal Ballet Prima Ballerina - would be able to secure. This is the story of men in ballet told first hand by the best male dancers in the world.

GARETH MALONE'S GREAT CHOIR REUNION

December 29/New Year's Eve, BBC2, 8pm

It's 10 years since choirmaster Gareth Malone first set out on a mission to get Britain singing. Since then he's inspired hundreds of people creating 14 very different choirs across the country, from schools to entire towns to military wives. To mark the 10th anniversary, he has a dream: to track down and bring together all the choirs he's formed for a huge reunion party. As a centre-piece for this party, he wants to put together his 'choir of choirs', a super-group of

the most talented singers he's encountered over the years. He's got just four short weeks. Can he bring them together in time? And can they pull off a performance that's worthy of a decade's work getting the nation singing? In the first episode, Gareth tracks down ex-pupils from the first two choirs he created at Northolt High School and Lancaster Boys School. He discovers how being part of the choir changed their lives, and how they have gone on to successful careers, many in music. In the second episode, on New Year's Eve, he continues to spread the word of his reunion to the remainder of his choirs, and tracks down some of the best singers from South Oxhey Community Choir, the Military Wives and the nine workplace choirs he formed for his choral contest Sing While You Work. Frenzied rehearsals and preparations for the reunion culminate in a hugely emotional and joyous reunion party.

CARLOS ACOSTA'S CARMEN: FAREWELL PERFORMANCE

Christmas Day, BBC4, 7.30pm

The Royal Ballet's new production of Carmen from the legendary dancer Carlos Acosta, making his final performance on the main stage at Covent Garden. Darcey Bussell presents.

GYPSY

December 27, BBC4, 9pm

Jonathan Kent's award-winning production of Gypsy starring Imelda Staunton as Rose. The first London production to be seen for 40 years, it broke all box office records at the Savoy Theatre.

TEN PIECES II

Boxing Day, BBC2, 10.35am

Immersive family film mixing animation, live action and close-up performance of 10 pieces of orchestral music selected by the likes of Christopher Eccleston, James May, Pixie Lott, Doc Brown and Dion Dublin.

NEW YEAR'S DAY CONCERT FROM VIENNA 2016

New Year's Day, BBC2, 11.15am/ BBC4, 7pm

Traditional classical start to 2016 given by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. Filmed inside the stunning Golden Hall in Vienna.

NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS

Performing at Central Hall Westminster will be Bryan Adams Rocks Big Ben Live **(BBC1, 11.30pm)**. Jools Holland will present his 23rd New Year's Eve Hootenany **(BBC2, 11.10pm).** Over on Channel 4, Chris Evans gets set for 2016 on TFI New Year's Eve **(7.30pm)**, while Alan Carr has NYE Specstacular 2015 **(9pm)**.

THE CHRISTMAS BIG SING

December 20, BBC1, 4.45pm

A feast of carols and festive music from the Royal Albert Hall in this Songs of Praise special. Hosted by Sally Magnusson and David Grant, it features special guests Ronan Keating, quizmaster Alexander Armstrong, Ruby Turner and star of The Lion King, Shaun Escoffery.

CAROLS FROM KING'S

Christmas Eve, BBC2, 5.45pm

The much-loved Christmas Eve celebration of carols and readings. This traditional celebration of the birth of Christ is, for many, the true start of Christmas. A solo chorister sings Once In Royal David's City and heralds a glorious feast of Christmas words and music from the candlelit fan-vaulted splendour of Chapel of King's College, Cambridge.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS ON ITV

Christmas Eve, ITV, 11pm

Aled Jones visits St Elisabeth's Church in the town of Reddish Stockport for their candlelight carol service. Performances from Britain's Got Talent winners Collabro, Memphis soul singer Toni Green as well as Christmas readings stars from Coronation Street.

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Love in a Tardis

Alex Kingston is thrilled to be back for this year's Doctor Who Christmas special - but will the rumoured on-screen chemistry between River Song and Peter Capaldi's Doctor come to fruition? **Susan Griffin** has the gossip.

Alex Kingston has many memories from her wedding day to TV producer Jonathan Stamp back in the summer, including being told off by her former Doctor Who co-star Matt Smith.

He'd got wind of the fact she was to reappear as the Doctor's wife River Song, this time opposite Peter Capaldi's incarnation.

Kingston, who was last seen being kissed goodbye by Smith in 2013's The Name Of The Doctor, didn't expect to be back: "I thought that was it for me. I was never officially told that's it, but enough time had passed since the last episode..."

But then she heard through fans that Moffat and [former showrunner] Russell T. Davies had mentioned what fun it would be if they were to explore River with Capaldi's Doctor. "They're both men who keep so much close to their chests that they wouldn't say, or even entertain, the idea like that in print unless there was some seed germinating somewhere, but I still didn't hear anything for ages," Kingston continues.

DOCTOR WHO
Christmas Day, BBC1, 5.15pm

In the special, it's Christmas Day on a remote human colony and the Doctor is hiding. When a crashed spaceship calls upon him for help, he finds himself recruited into River Song's squad and hurled into a fast and frantic chase across the galaxy.

King Hydroflax (Greg Davies) is furious, and his giant Robot bodyguard is out of control and coming for them all! Will Nardole (Matt Lucas) survive? And when will River Song work out who the Doctor is?

All will be revealed on a starliner full of galactic super-villains and a destination the Doctor has been avoiding for a very long time.

River doesn't know he's the Doctor when they meet, which, Kingston says, went "hand in hand" with the fact she didn't know what to expect from Capaldi, as she hadn't been watching the series since her departure.

She first appeared in the series opposite David Tennant in 2008, and insists the experience doesn't change with each new Doctor.

"Essentially my character is the same, so there's continuity there, and the fun is interacting with someone who is essentially the same man, but in a different skin with a different energy."

Russell T. Davies reportedly described the on-screen union of River and Capaldi's Doctor as a potential "sex storm", so has the special has been sexed up? "It's a family show, but there have been moments on set where we've started to call it 'Doctor Blue'," admits Kingston with a laugh.

"The script is fantastic," she adds, "and the fast-paced and comedy interaction between the two is a bit like those old slapstick movies, like Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn, it's got that screwball quality."

She is genuinely surprised that, seven years after her first appearance, she's still getting to reprise River. "I thought she was just a beautifully written character in a two-episode story arc, but Steven had other intentions," she said.

"I think any actress would love the opportunity to explore the character. Partly because in this fabulous world of sci-fi, you get to run around and fight aliens and monsters and have this quick-fire dialogue."

Q&A Timothy Spall

How would you describe Fungus?
Even though he is a snot-ridden, farting monster, he is actually quiet, very polite and very decent. He is a sort of Edwardian character. Like a lot of Raymond Briggs' characters, he has a sense of decency and of doing the right thing. He finds all his son's revolutionary ideas disquieting because he believes in the idea that there is a place for everything and everything in its place.

Tell us about the story...
It's about the life of a Bogeyman who is having a mild existential crisis and is starting to doubt what he does a little. He lives down there, and then he comes up here and scares people. That's his job. He does it with great politeness, not wickedness. It's a mutual relationship with the people on the surface, who the Bogeymen call Drycleaners and they're all happy with it.

So what changes?
We've introduced an element in which Fungus's son Mould has been affected by the proliferation of information. He's become 'Drycurious' and absconds to the world above. Even though they know they're breaking the law, Fungus and his beloved Bogeywife Mildew want Mould back. But they find themselves trapped Up Top …

Where do Fungus and Mildew end up?
They have to live in suburban Daventry, of all places. It's a classic fish-out-of-water situation. They live next to Wendy and Daryl, a well-meaning couple who are going through an existential crisis of their own. But they're very kind and understanding people.

Even though the series has added new elements, does it still remain faithful to the spirit of Raymond Briggs' book?
Absolutely. We've taken a leap of faith and invented some new theatrical conceits but I think we've managed to maintain the flavour of the book and that subversive quality that Raymond Briggs does so beautifully.

Do you think children's tastes have got more sophisticated?
Their scope has definitely broadened. In my day, there were only Twizzle, Torchy the Battery Boy and Bill and Ben. You had to queue outside the Granada cinema in Clapham Junction to see Bambi. Now all kids have to do is press a button to see their favourite shows. So because there is now a lot more material available, children seem more literate in what they imbibe. They may appear more sophisticated but, in fact, kids are still kids. They'll still respond to something made with honesty and gusto. They still love fart gags… let's hope so, anyway!

Why do you think Fungus the Bogeyman will appeal at Christmas?
A four-year-old can sit next to an 80-year-old and they'll both get a lot out of it. One of the hardest things to crack is family entertainment. I think we've contemporised a classic, but we have captured the very strong flavour of a highly original book that has a uniquely British feel.

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Really wild Christmas

THE GREAT BARRIER REEF WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

December 30, BBC1, 9pm

In 1957, Sir David Attenborough first visited and scuba-dived on one of our planet's most extraordinary creations, the Great Barrier Reef. Sixty years on, using brand-new technology and the latest scientific research, he has the opportunity to unlock the secrets of the Reef as he embarks on a personal journey that reveals the true extent of its diversity, characters and complexity. For this three episode series, Sir David climbs aboard the Alucia, a 56-metre research vessel with a state-of-the-art Triton submersible, laboratories and a helicopter. It will allow him to take to the seas and the skies to give a perspective that has never been seen before with access to some of the most remote parts of the Reef and it's magical residents.

COUNTRYWISE WINTER WONDERLAND

Christmas Day, ITV, 4.10pm

A special seasonal edition of the rural series with regular presenters Paul Heiney, Liz Bonnin and Ben Fogle braving the elements around the British Isles. Ben Fogle climbs Helvellyn in the beautiful surroundings of the Lake District. Paul Heiney takes to the sky in a glider to view the slandscape of the Peak District. Liz Bonnin travels to Cambridgeshire to witnesses the arrival of thousands of swans escaping the icy Russian winter.

SNOW CHICK

December 23, BBC1, 8.30pm

Midwinter in the Antarctic, and after months of blizzards and temperatures of -60°C, male emperor penguins are watching and waiting for their chicks to hatch. Snow Chick is the last to emerge into this harsh, frozen world.

Narrated by Kate Winslet, The Snow Chick takes an intimate look at this tiny chick's first precarious months on the ice, growing up in the world's most extreme nursery. Emperor penguins are the only animals to breed in the Antarctic winter. Snow Chick is 'elbowed' out of the baby gang, ventures too far for comfort, hides from chick-snatching penguins and avoids a scavenging petrel by the fluff of his back – all while slipping and skating on treacherous ice. Finally, he gets tossed unceremoniously into the open ocean – his new home for the next three years.

WALKING THE HIMALAYAS

December 27, C4, 8pm

Explorer Levison Wood follows up his 2013 trek along the entire length of the Nile by attempting to walk the entire length of the Himalayas. Beginning in Afghanistan and trekking 1,700 gruelling miles across the roof of the world, Levison will be travelling through some of the most remote, beautiful, and perilous places on earth, teaming up with local guides and meeting soldiers, monks and nomadic tribes as he tries to complete his challenge. He suffers from a debilitating lack of oxygen, battles natural obstacles, and he has to tread carefully through one of the most fought-over areas of the world.

MICHAEL PALIN'S QUEST FOR ARTEMISIA

December 28, BBC4, 9pm

Curious about a powerful but violent painting that caught his eye, Michael Palin sets off on a quest to discover the astonishing story of the forgotten female artist who painted it over 400 years ago. Travelling to Italy in search of Artemisia Gentileschi's tale, he encounters her work in Florence, Rome and Naples. Unearthing not only her paintings but a complex life which included her rape as a teenager and the ensuing indignity of a full trial; her life as a working mother and her ultimate success against all odds as one of the greatest painters of the Baroque age.

JOHN BISHOP'S GORILLA ADVENTURE

December 28, ITV, 9pm

John Bishop encounters one of the most endangered animals on Earth and discovers that his family has more in common with them than he ever imagined. This documentary follows as he joins a group of vets who have dedicated their lives to saving the precious few mountain gorillas left in the wild terrain between the borders of Rwanda, Congo and Uganda, made famous to UK viewers by David Attenborough's programme in the 1970s. Although they now number fewer than 900, when head vet Mike Cranfield started in 1998 there were barely 600 gorillas left. Their numbers are now increasing strongly he discovers.

PANDA BIRTHS

New Year's Eve, ITV, 8.30pm

Steve Leonard presents this special wildlife documentary which explores the world of the giant panda. These amazing creatures are a kind of animal royalty, but their numbers are critically endangered. The giant panda lives in a few mountain ranges in central China, mainly in Sichuan province. As a result of farming, deforestation, and other development, the giant panda has been driven out of the lowland areas where it once lived. The number of pandas living in the wild is believed to be only around 2,000. Travelling over 5,000 miles to China, he goes behind the scenes of three remarkable panda habitats to watch the cutest baby animals on the planet grow up. Granted exclusive access, Steve meets some adorable panda characters, witnesses the incredible moment when a panda is born, and follows their development from newborn through to one-year-old youngsters.

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DISRUPTION: Commuters are advised to thoroughly check changes to services to London over the Christmas period

Southeastern Q&A backfires as commuters express frustration

Tom Pyman on a misplaced Tweet and how all commuters and travellers need to be aware of major changes to services over Christmas, which will see a number of London terminals closed until January

SOUTHEASTERN train services are to be severely disrupted over the festive period, with no trains at all stopping at Charing Cross, Waterloo East, Cannon Street and London Bridge.

This is due to Thameslink Programme improvement work taking place from between 8pm on Christmas Eve to Sunday January 3.

Ahead of the disruption, Southeastern held a question and answer session on its Twitter page on Tuesday afternoon, where commuters had two hours to ask questions related to changes to services over the next fortnight, although the exercise was described by some users as a PR disaster following a series of embarrassing moments.

Chiefs confirmed that over the festive period it only has the capacity to run two trains per hour during the morning rush from Grove Park to Blackfriars and Victoria in the capital, rather than the usual nine.

Southeastern's managing director David Statham said: "Whilst Network Rail carry out this important work to improve the railway for our passengers, our priority is to do everything possible to let you know how your journey will be affected and what your alternative options are so you can still reach your destination."

Spokespeople insisted that with 30 per cent fewer passengers using its services this month, implementing schedule changes over Christmas would have the lowest impact, although there would be extra staff employed at 'key hub stations' to help cope with overcrowding.

Bosses were also left a little red-faced as commuters pointed out that there was just one ticket machine in operation at the new £26m Rochester station, which opened last week.

It was, however, announced that a second machine would be installed and ready to use in the coming weeks.

The blunders continued when the account responded to a tweet from an account called Southeastern Pains that asked "Is it acceptable that Southeastern can delay commuters by 4hr 50min every week without owing a penny of compensation?" with the following reply: "Yes that would be acceptable for you to travel that way."

The firm subsequently deleted the tweet and apologised, claiming the response was meant for another question during the session.

The user behind the Southeastern Pains account told KoS: "The tweet was an amusing sideshow, but it was probably simple human error, and the real issue remains that we have a monopoly supplier making big profits while providing an inadequate service, all year round.

"It is not unusual for people travelling on peak-time services five days a week to suffer nine or 10 delays in any given week.

"The performance stats don't show this because they give equal weight to packed commuter trains, which usually run late and which most people use, and mostly non peak ones, which are much less heavily used and must often run on time.

"The delays are sometimes due to network issues out of Southeastern's control, but are often caused by issues such as their old and poorly maintained rolling stock developing faults.

"And when things do go wrong, the provision of information is awful and delay repay arrangements are wholly inadequate.

"I actually think Christmas is probably a sensible time to be doing maintenance and improvement work, but Southeastern have lost the confidence of their passengers so people won't believe them when they say it is necessary."

Frustration was also vented during the Q&A with regards to essential work on the line between Tonbridge and Hastings, which began earlier this week, with engineers replacing worn-out components and rail on a busy section of the route, along with vital maintenance on the earthworks and signalling systems.

Network Rail's route managing director for the south east, Alasdair Coates, said: "Our railway is booming and many lines are as busy on weekends as they are during the week.

"To keep trains running reliably we have to continue with our railway upgrade plan to replace worn-out track and other equipment, but we also know that passengers want to travel by train on a Saturday and Sunday.

"We have worked with Southeastern on a plan to continue our improvement work on the Hastings line overnight on Mondays and Tuesdays, when evening trains are at their quietest – and considerably quieter than at weekends.

"There is no good time to do this work and it is almost impossible to do so without impacting on passengers – however I'm confident that this will plan keep the railway open as long as possible, while also improving journeys for everybody."

Richard Dean, train services director at Southeastern, said: "Network Rail has asked to take possession of this route from this time on Monday evening to carry out vital engineering work and we have agreed as we are assured it will mean less work taking place at the weekend.

"We appreciate this will inconvenience those who travel on this line after 9pm on a Monday or Tuesday evening and we apologise for that, but this will impact on a much lesser number of passengers than if this happened on a Saturday or Sunday.

"Bus replacement services will be in place during these times and we would urge passengers to please leave extra time for their journeys."

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO SOUTHEASTERN SERVICES

FROM 8pm on Thursday December 24 to Sunday January 3, improvement work means no trains will stop at Charing Cross, Waterloo East, Cannon Street and London Bridge.

From 1pm on Christmas Eve trains times will change and services will be reduced after 4pm, so commuters should make sure they check for last trains home.

No Southeastern train services will be running on Christmas Day and on Boxing Day the only service will be between Ashford and St Pancras.

There will be a revised timetable, and trains going to/from London will start/terminate at Victoria, Blackfriars or New Cross.

Commuters should note these station closures also apply between Tuesday 29 and Thursday 31 where a 'Saturday service' will apply.

Tickets will be accepted on alternative routes on Transport for London services.

The following stations will not have direct trains to London throughout this period: Belvedere, Catford Bridge, Clock House, Deptford, Eden Park, Elmers End, Erith, Greenwich, Hayes, Lower Sydenham, Maidstone West, Maze Hill, New Cross, New Beckenham, Snodland, St Johns, West Wickham, Westcombe Park and Woolwich Dockyard.

Replacement buses will be available, and tickets will be accepted on alternative routes.

On New Year's Eve, the south entrance at Blackfriars will close at 7pm, and the north entrance will be exit-only from 11.30pm.

Southeastern will not serve this station from 11pm.

After midnight there will be three re-timed trains from St Pancras, which had originally been scheduled between 11pm and 12am.

Additional trains will depart from Victoria but the station is expected to be busy with queuing systems in place, please leave enough time to catch your train home.

A 'Sunday service' will apply on New Year's Day and January 3, with a 'Saturday service' in place for January 2.

It could be thanks to pantomime that Pinter plays this summer

Chris Murphy takes a look at the commercial clout of the festive season's big theatrical box office hit as the county once again flocks in its thousands to watch the slapstick song and dance extravaganza

IT WOULD be easy to dismiss the power of the pantomime; that most quintessentially British festive theatrical production.

After all, it's often hard to see beyond the brightly coloured costumes, the custard pies, the machine-gun gags and wave upon wave of audience call and response.

Yet, according to one of the leading proponents of the genre in the county, the commercial clout it packs could be all that stands between life and death for many of our regional theatres.

TV star and author Paul Hendy runs Evolution Productions along with his wife and business partner, Emily Wood, from their offices in Eastry, near Sandwich.

Not only is it the creative brains behind the critically-lauded Marlowe Theatre pantomime in Canterbury, but it also stages shows in major arenas in Crawley, Croydon, Sheffield, Shrewsbury and St Albans.

He knows that the success of the panto at this time of year is essential.

He explained to KoS: "I think it is fair to say theatres heavily rely on the income made with their pantos so they can put on other shows through the year – sometimes, shows that are a little bit experimental.

"That means audiences can enjoy a much wider range of entertainment than might otherwise be possible, thanks to the panto income.

"Pantomimes for many theatres around the country are their lifeblood. Without pantomime, some theatres in Britain wouldn't be able to survive.

"I think for some theatres something like 30 to 40 per cent of their annual income is from panto. And considering it is only on for four weeks of the year that is some slice of revenue.

"On top of that, I think pantomime is in a good place at the moment. It is as popular as it has ever been and is showing a good growth every year."

Artistic endeavour is a notorious hard sell at times and with many theatres needing big audiences to break even, the success of the panto – playing to sell-out, or near sell-out arenas for a matinee and evening performance every day – can allow many other events to be staged to provide a depth to the theatre's offering, but not necessarily break even.

Pull the panto and the safety net it creates disappears.

No surprise, then, that practically every theatre in the county – big or small – is currently putting on one of the big productions; Snow White, Beauty and the Beast, Peter Pan, Cinderella, Jack and Beanstalk, Sleeping Beauty and Dick Whittington.

Beauty and the Beast is currently playing at the Centre Theatre in Chatham.

Run by Medway Council, a spokesman for the authority explained: "There has been no decline in the love of pantomimes and at this moment in time this is the best selling show that we have done.

"Panto does bring in a lot of revenue over the festive period and it is no secret the shows can help support theatres for the rest of the year."

Certainly ticket sales tell the story.

Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall starts its run of Aladdin on Tuesday.

Last year's record production of Sleeping Beauty was seen by 9,500 people and venue chiefs are expecting even more this year.

Dave Cameron at the venue explained: "The cast and crew have been hard at work over the past two months with final costume, set and script preparations and rehearsing. The final preparations and full dress rehearsals for this year's spectacular pantomime, Aladdin, are well under way. With some performances already sold out, we're expecting a busy festive season."

Martin Dodd, managing director of UK Productions, which is putting on Cinderella, at the Assembly Halls, Tunbridge Wells said: "We are currently producing 11 pantos this year across the country demonstrating that old and young alike really are still in love with it."

Mark Everett is director of the Marlowe Theatre. He understands fully the importance of putting on a good show.

Over 90,000 will file through the doors before the production of Snow White finally closes on January 10 to see stars like EastEnders' actress Rita Simmons and children's favourite Mr Maker. The use of celebrities has become a key sales tool for the bigger shows, although any production which sinks its budget into the star name's bank account runs the risk of poor reviews and losing a reputation for quality which can take years to recover.

Perhaps a rare feat in the world of the theatre is the ability to pull in every age group for the same show - especially children.

Mr Everett explains: "We are proud of the fact that Marlowe pantomimes are real family affairs, with audiences made up of lots of different ages - producer Paul Hendy always talks about the day he saw four generations of one family at a show.

"We are heading for a sales record for our panto this year, breaking all previous pantomime sales. Our previous record was 90,000 for Jack And The Beanstalk in 2013/14. We'll be able to announce the final figure at the end of the run in January.

"We sell a lot of our tickets far in advance, as people know demand is huge. In fact, we are already selling tickets for next year's pantomime, Dick Whittington."

So just why does the pantomime remain such a draw?

Mr Everett adds: "It has been around forever, but the panto is still growing in popularity all of the time and a whole new generation of parents have made it part of their Christmas tradition. And it's not just the Brits who love panto – increasingly we welcome groups from France and Belgium, and individual visitors from all over the world who want a slice of a very British tradition."

Chris Glover is director at Dartford's Orchard Theatre. He explains: "We in the UK still love our annual panto, it is a tradition that will never disappear.

Continued on page 44

SETS: Dick Whittington is playing at Dartford's Orchard Theatre starring Shane Richie

COPS: Aladdin at Theatre Royal

READY: Cast of Leas Cliff Hall's Aladdin production which starts this week

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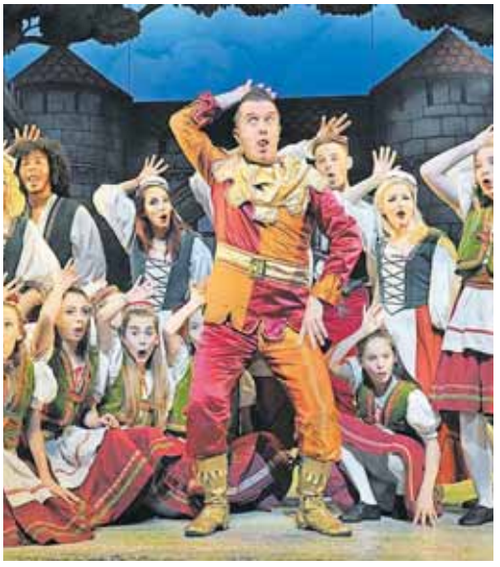
DAME: Classic character takes a Star Wars twist in Canterbury

SMILES: Shane Richie is box office pull



DANCE: Mr Maker at Marlowe Theatre's Snow White

Continued from page 42

"Families are still flocking to the theatre, and it seems the fun is passed down from parent to child over the generations.

"This year over 28,096 people will have seen our panto - the last two years have broken records, and sales this year are just as strong.

"If the box office is open during panto intervals there is genuinely a queue with customers booking their seats for next year. Next year's show has just gone on sale and we have already sold over 2,000 tickets.

"With many young people coming to the theatre for the first time during panto it's essential that we get it right and give them a great experience."

IT'S BEHIND YOU... HISTORY OF PANTOMIME

PANTOMIME has been around in one form, or another, since the 16th century, when it is believed to have developed from a blend of stage traditions in Italy and other European countries.

Today it is primarily a British tradition – although some shows do take place in other English speaking countries – but not to the same extent.

So what defines a panto?

The truth is no one thing or another, but a combination of various elements drawn together to retell a classic tale.

Colour, choreography, music, slapstick and audience participation are all vital.

But if the older woman in the production – more often than not the mother of the hero – isn't played by a man in drag then your panto credentials will be challenged.

Carry On-style humour is still popular, but the trick is to appeal as much to the adults as to the children in the audience. Forget one and the other will ensure they won't be returning next year.

But perhaps the most famous aspect is the classic 'he's behind you', 'oh no he isn't', 'oh yes he is' call and response which continues to bring the house down each and every year.

If you tried to explain pantomime to a visiting alien the chances are they'll think we Earthlings are very strange indeed.

Pupils cheer as rocket takes off

Now school in Broadstairs waits to see if it will be one of just 10 given the chance of speaking to UK astronaut Tim Peake as he orbits the Earth while working onboard the International Space Station

ASTRONAUT Tim Peake was cheered into orbit on Wednesday by children at a Kent school – one of 10 shortlisted to be in with a chance of speaking directly to the spaceman live from the International Space Station (ISS).

Major Peake, who served as a pilot and flight commander in the British Army and now represents the European Space Agency, became the first British-funded astronaut to live and work on the ISS.

He launched into space at 11.03am from Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, alongside crew members Tim Kopra of Nasa and Yuri Malenchenko of Roscosmos for the six-month mission, which will see them carry out a variety of experiments and tests for researchers.

The rocket docked with the ISS some six hours later and after a little drama when the astronauts had to take over manual controls in the final stages after a glitch with the control system.

His mission will be watched with great interest by pupils and staff at the Wellesley House School in Broadstairs.

It hosted a launch party; inviting along a number of other schools in the area to cheer him on.

LIFT-OFF: Rocket carrying Tim Peake blasted off on Wednesday

A spokesman for the school said: "We believe the excitement of Tim's mission, coupled with the intense media coverage, will capture the imagination of our pupils, supported by the wide range of first class educational resources that the UK Space Agency has made available free of charge.

"We will be showing the children what life will be like for Tim on the International Space Station, hosting a space quiz and then inviting the children to get their thinking caps on and come up with questions they would like to put forward to Tim.

"The other Kent schools will then launch their own competitions to select the pupils who will be able to join us at Wellesley House next year where we will hopefully host a two-day, space related STEM workshop and the live contact with Tim Peake with video feed as well as radio link.

"Not every school on the shortlist will be fortunate enough to host one of the calls as this will depend upon Tim's working arrangements on board the ISS and suitable times when the ISS passes over the UK during Tim's mission."

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Landlord swaps houses for push for power as he enters PCC arena

As Fergus Wilson sells off his multi-million pound housing portfolio and prepares to run in next year's Kent police and crime commissioner election, **Luke May** catches up with the property magnate

PROPERTY tycoon Fergus Wilson has had a busy time of late; first announcing he was close to concluding a deal to sell his huge portolio and then that he intends to stand in next May's Kent police and crime commissioner election.

Along with his wife Judith, the former teachers currently own some 950 properties in a buy-to-let empire primarily focused around east Kent and Ashford in particular.

But they are set to be sold for an estimated £250m to Middle East investors with Mr Wilson admitting with "one foot in the grave" now was the time to get out of the landlord business.

Before the proposed sale, the couple were among the biggest buy-to-let investors in the country.

The landlords, who have appeared on The Sunday Times' Rich List last year with an empire worth £180m started snapping up properties in the housing boom of the 1990s, buying their first in the road they lived for £98,000.

And as house prices rocketed, so did their bank balance

Since then, the couple were operating as landlords for nearly 1,000 houses, with a particularly strong foothold in Ashford and Maidstone.

The couple, who started buying properties in Blackheath, bought new-build houses and remortgaged them as prices went up, using profits to finance further purchases.

But Mr Wilson told Kent on Sunday steps had been taken to prevent the sale having a negative impact on the local housing market.

He said: "We have so many properties in Ashford, if we were to put them all on the open market, you would see local housing prices fall.

"By selling our properties to another consortium, we won't be flooding the market, and there will be no changes for tenants.

"Some people may have sold at a premium as we're selling with properties with reliable tenants, rather than empty houses, but we're not petty.

"There will be no change for tenants, they will pay their normal rent, they may just receive a notice that their landlord has changed. It's a very, very painless process."

In 2014, the landlord sent out hundreds of eviction notices to tenants receiving benefits, and told letting agents he would no longer be accepting tenants who claimed benefits.

Mr Wilson attempted to explain the controversial move, saying: "Some papers, and I'm only talking about one or two, are quite left wing and act like everyone should be on benefits.

"There are people who cannot work, because they are disabled, they have young children or they are simply to old to work.

"But no landlord would take them as there's no rent guarantee, the government won't give us one either, if you're on benefits it shows you cannot afford to pay the rent.

"People have to accept that many of them will never have a house to live in for all of their lives.

"Right now, Kent is pouring a quart in to a pint pot and people at the bottom of the economic ladder suffer.

"The government say they are dealing with the housing crisis, but it all takes time, what will people do in the mean time?"

Mr Wilson explained the decision to sell his property was made with his age in mind.

He said: "There's no pressure on us whatsoever as landlords, I'm 67 with one foot in the grave, you could say I have a one way ticket to Dignitas.

"They've got to be sold off at some point, so it's much better to have some control now and get rid of them while we can.

"We've had a number of bidders from across the globe. I'd previously sold 50 properties to China, while the current investors are all from Arabic countries.

"We wanted market price for the properties, and will be selling for the market price as of March 31. We expect the sale to be fully complete at the end of June."

So just what to do now for a man rarely from the headlines for his outspoken comments?

Having claimed he would run in the inaugural 2012 PCC election as an independent candidate, Mr Wilson did not stand. But as the runners and riders prepare to topple Ann Barnes in May, Mr Wilson insists this time his name will be on the ballot paper.

Mr Wilson will be running againstthe declared runners so far of Ukip candidate Henry Bolton and Conservative candidate Matthew Scott. Labour announces its nomination in the new year.

Mr Wilson, however, will be one of those making the biggest headlines you would imagine, with a no-nonsense 'from the hip' approach to political debate.

And his opening remarks didn't disappoint, declaring the county was on a "war footing" due to the terror threat and faced "the most serious threat since the Second World War".

He said: "I will only be standing for one term if I were to be elected, but I will be putting the needs of Kent before the needs of central government, though the two do have similar aims."

And top of the list of pre-election promises was on the thorny issues of border controls, security and Operation Stack.

Amongst his proposals, was a desire to create an armed police force specifically dedicated to dealing with crime at the Channel Tunnel and Channel ports.

Part of the force would be based at the border, and would apparently operate a "shoot to kill" policy on any "suicide bombers".

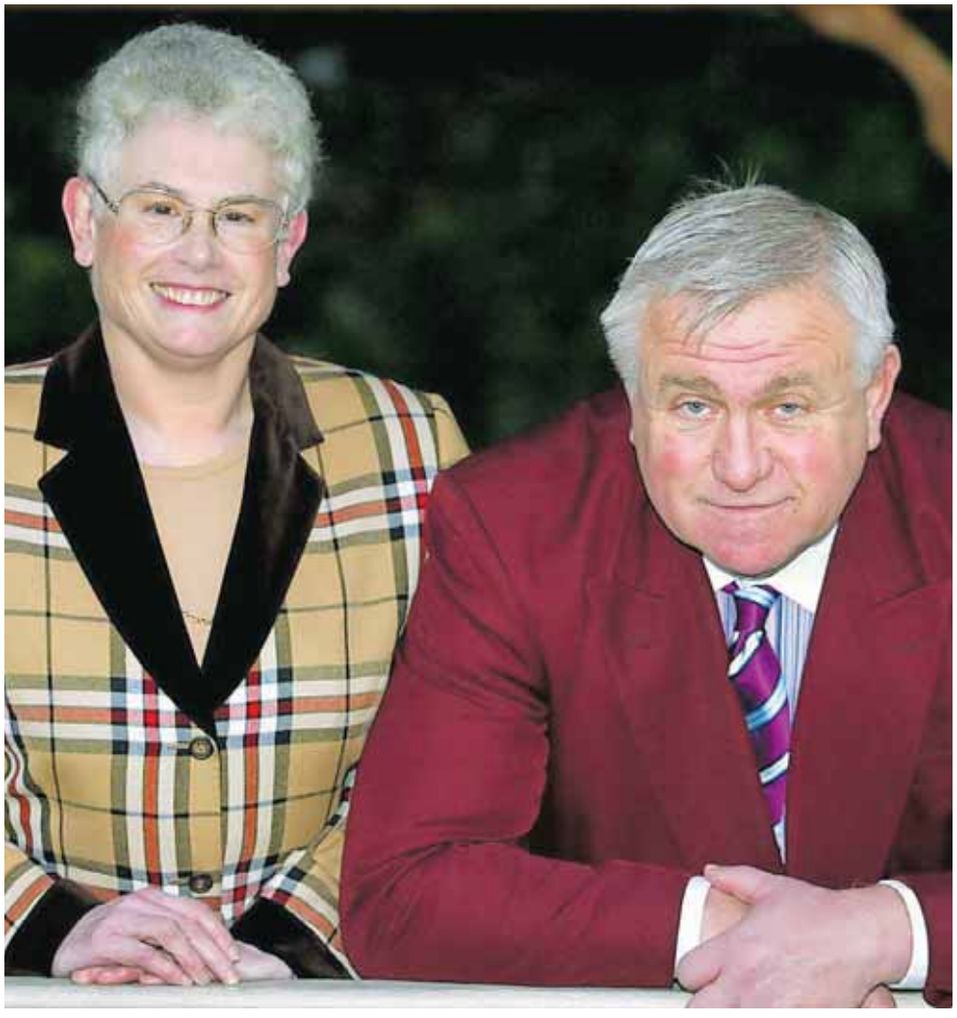
The force would, claims Mr Wilson, be autonomous, but funded by the government. Kent Police would not fund it as a consequence...which may, perversely, put it outside his control were he to be elected.

Mr Wilson claimed it is "inevitable" there will be "an attempt to detonate a bomb remotely in the Channel Tunnel by telephone".

As PCC, Mr Wilson would attempt to have this force be in control of Operation Stack. He opposes a lorry park option as a "waste of time" and says far better to stop lorries prior to them entering the county en route to the continent.

He's certainly no stranger to the workings of the legal system, having been found guilty of assault by beating in 2014 and using a mobile phone whilst driving in 2008.

Quite whether Mr Wilson has the approach to win over the necessary majority to carry him to victory remains to be seen - but he will, if nothing else, ensure the contest is not boring. And that's a good thing.



ARMED: Property magnate Fergus Wilson, pictured with wife Judith above, has ambitious plans if he wins PCC election

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AUTHENTIC: The performers stay in character during the show

Stage show brings the hits of legendary singers to life

Molly Kersey-Law speaks to show producer Gary Mac about what is in store....

STAGE show Soul Legends will be bringing the hits of iconic performers such as Aretha Franklin and James Brown to Bromley.

The production will be on stage at the Churchill Theatre next year.

The show features more than 30 well-loved songs including Respect, Soul Man, Knock On Wood, Proud Mary and You're My First My Last My Everything.

It is the brainchild of show producer Michael Taylor, who has said that the performance will be "the feel good show of the year".

He explained: "It's all aboard the sensational soul train show of the year.

"We embark from soul's heady sixties origins, steaming non-stop through to the present day via everyone's favourite seventies and eighties dance classics."

And Mr Taylor has a good track record for producing other successful musical shows.

Spokesman for the show, Gary Mac, said: "Michael Taylor produced a show called Thank You For The Music - which has been to the Churchill a few times and to the Orchard Theatre in Dartford. That was about 20 years ago and the premise for that was it was a combination of music from Abba and the Bee Gees in a current show. That did really well.

"He also produced a show called the Magic of Motown. That does really well too, it's packed with 36 number one hits.

"Soul Legends is the newest show from our stable.

"It covers everything from the sixties, where we had artists like Aretha Franklin, to the seventies where you have got people like Barry White and James Brown, and Tina Turner whose music spanned both those eras. It goes through to the Earth Wind and Fire and those kind of acts, going into the eighties where you have got Michael Jackson in what was probably the peak of his career.

"We have packed 32 hit songs into it and it's probably what I would like to call our most upbeat, dance-y show of the lot really.

"If you went to a party then you would hear all of these songs.

"They are classics and stand the test of time."

Mr Mac said that this was reflected in the wide age range of the audiences who came to see the show.

"There are people in their 60s who remember Aretha Franklin and James Brown, and people in their 40s and 50s who used to go to venues like Flicks in Dartford. It takes you back to those days," he told KoS.

"You find a lot of youngsters there who like a good night out, it's a good party night out. After the excess of Christmas and New Year's Eve why stop there?"

"I think there are different favourites for different age groups. I Feel Good by James Brown would be for more mature customers, and they really enjoy that and the Aretha Franklin songs.

"There are universally loved songs, things like Get Down On It by Kool and the Gang and Beat It by Michael Jackson, and Barry White's You're My First My Last My Everything - they are good dance-y songs and everybody gets up."

The show also includes the music of arists including Wilson Pickett,

Continued on page 51

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KIND lady, 50s, been broken hearted, seeks kind, genuine man for caring relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419889**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3016 Box: 413399**

PAT, slim, single, 68, non-smoker, GSOH, likes going for walks etc, seeks male, slim, single, 66-70, non-smoker, clean-shaven, GSOH, with similar interests. Canterbury area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419081**

FELICITY, 38yrs, attractive, petite but shapely lady seeks gent for indoor activities! Age/looks/marital status unimportant but must be discreet and non demanding. **Tel: 0906 515 3020 Box 420235**

FEMALE easy going, kind, loving, genuine, romantic, car boots, gardening, seeking male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417603**

MARION, early 70s, young at heart, GSOH, active, likes walking, gardening, meals out, travel, theatre and animals, looking for male friendship to share interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419657**

CHLOE, pretty brunette, 30yrs good job but lacking male with a naughty side, is that you, age unimportant. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4057558**

CHANTELLE, 5ft3 light brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, like nights in/out, walks, animals, romance seeks honest guy. Littlehampton. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4923883**

MELANIE, tanned, toned, young 41yrs divorcee with own flat, working, solvent, just missing a chap. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4112160**

MARIE, very lonely middle-aged woman, looking for a kind hearted older man, late 70s/early 80s for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418955**

RACHEL late 40s, blonde, blue eyes and very voluptuous. Looking for a kind, caring honest man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418741**

NICE female looking for decent genuine male for friendship to start out with. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4710874**

BLONDE female, 5ft 1ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025**

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349**

ATTRACTIVE lady early 50's, petite, Scandinavian blonde professional, WLTM professional, caring gent, 50-60's for attention and future together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416569**

RACHEL attractive, blue eyes, blonde, voluptuous, seeking kind, honest, generous kind male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418403**

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349**

ALISON 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416497**

DEBORAH 41, intelligent brunette, lovely brown eyes, discreet, many interests, seeks similar male to share fun and good conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416515**

ATTRACTIVE black, athletic lady, varied interests, seeks similar white, old fashioned, genuine male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416215**

MAY sexy black African female, 38, hardworking, seeks generous friendly male for mutual rewarding friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416211**

SUE young at heart, good looking, enjoy life, socialising, beach walks, gardening, theatre, seeking male, 55-65 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416171**

BLONDE female, 47, looking for fun, sensual, experienced, understanding, seeking similar. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415675**

ESSEX lady, mid 60's, adaptable, seeking nice male, likes most things. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418537**

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418117**

HELEN, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243**

FEMALE, 59, GSOH, many interests, seeks caring male for fun friendship maybe more, genuine calls only. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4819793**

PAT, 68, young at heart, slim, proud 4' 11" GSOH, N/S, likes walking etc Whitstable area, seeks similar slim easy going male 60-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419081**

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SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably, older, N/S male with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537**

HAPPY young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383**

KATIE, 5ft 5, slim dark hair, very attractive female, likes most things in life and a good laugh, looking for a similar male. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4722127**

PETITE Asian lady, slim, N/S, seeks genuine N/S male for wining/dining, fun and frolics. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414515**

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Men Seeking

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DAVE 46, seeks active female for walking, climbing and outdoor fun. Days out and evenings in. Friendly and GSOH. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5338933**

DAVID, 39yrs, divorced with no ties, lovely flat in spain, seeks travel companion, single mums welcome. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4112425**

PROFESSIONAL gentleman, just retired, own house, loves holidays, WLTM a lady for meals out, and to enjoy each others company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419751**

SIX foot guy, mature, looking for someone special to spend some quality time with. Please leave me a message I would love to hear from you! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420163**

HUBERT, lives in Rochester, single, lonely, looking for someone to get together with and make something happen and enjoy the rest of life with! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420049**

PAUL 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, weekends away, cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077**

GARETH handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421**

45 year old male, looking for a happy intelligent friendly female for company and evenings in or out, looks or race unimportant. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5063649**

MALE 56, likes good conversation, seeks older lady for discreet friendly fun, 50 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419201**

YOUNG 60yr old male, knows how to treat a lady, seeking special lady to spoil for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417909**

MICK 50, seeks attractive female for nice times out, genuine calls only. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417691**

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013**

PAUL GSOH, 5ft 8ins, medium build, seeking Miss Right for LTR to put the spark back into life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391970**

PROFESSIONAL, romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195**

PAUL 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, likes music, cinema, seeks female for fun, friendship and LTR. Tunbridge Wells. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371985**

MALE 51, 5ft 8ins, N/S, GSOH, easygoing, seeks slim female, 18-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338269**

YOUNG 64yr old male, slim, GSOH, adventurous, outgoing, likes most things, seeks easygoing, laidback, open-minded lady for friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399539**

CLINT, 37, kind, caring, honest and WLTM someone of any age who is similar and looking for a relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419951**

ROCKABILLY guy, seeks rock chick, 25-50 who likes 50's rock music and bands. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 284750**

WHITE Knight 59 5'10 tall, OHAC, in shining armour, looking for Damsel in Distress of similar age to share fun & laughter. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5073004**

CALM, kind and good company, male seeking a lovely lady for good times and fun and loving. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419733**

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50YR old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641**

MALE 47, builder, seeks lady for companionship and closeness, age and looks unimportant. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4924811**

MATTHEW, five foot eleven, looking for a mature lady for discreet friendship and a few laughs. Dartford area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419469**

JOHN, 47, six foot two, well-built, handsome, non-smoker, intelligent and funny, doesn't take himself too seriously, easy to get along with, seeks attractive female, any age, for discreet, adventurous, any time fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419461**

NICE looking genuine man would like to meet nice lady any age for company, outings with GSOH. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4922399**

ANDREW, 63, likes animals, walking, boot fares, shopping, looking for someone similar living in the Maidstone/Kent area, for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419203**

RICHARD 59 from East Kent. WLTM genuine female 50 plus for friendship! **Text only to Mailbox No: 4448755**

MALE 56 yrs, GSOH, n/s, would like to meet a lady to have happy times, lots of love to give, to enjoy good times in and out. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4181244**

MIKE Canterbury mature male, seeks single mum/lady, 28-42, slim-medium build for loving, caring relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415275**

MALE, 39, tall, hardworking, 6ft 2, looking for long-term lover/older woman. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418877**

WRITER tall, slim, dark hair, generous, seeking broad-minded lady for fun times. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412749**

SUGAR Daddy available! Mature, tall, slim, natural dark hair, seeks lady, age unimportant. Not afraid of commitment. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418889**

SIMON, 50, actor, loves music, films, reading, writing, loopholes, ambiguity, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia, WLTM a pretty leggy female, 35 years plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418827**

MALE 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535**

50YR old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641**

49YR old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929**

48YR old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789**

BARRY 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for wining, dining and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787**

VINCENT 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377397**

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719**

GARY 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175**

BARRY 49, 6ft, well built, kind, affectionate, loving, seeks special lady for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393855**

MALE 70's, fit, looking for lady to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416663**

HARRY 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015**

Gay Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

SENIOR bi male, 70s, n/s, clean-shaven, living in the Maidstone area, seeking similar bi male, aged 50-60, in the Maidstone area, for myself to give service to. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420219**

BI male 57 slim GSOH seeks local guy for fun and friendship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4751943**

JESSICA, 53 yrs old, feminine, sexy, smooth body seeking gay or bi man for fun, must be non-smoker. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418713**

FEMININE, sexy, cross-dresser, non-smoker, seeking cross-dresser gay or bi guy for fun. Must be non-smoker. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4866072**

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Show is packed full of songs to get the audience dancing

by Molly Kersey-Law
molly.kersey-law@archant.co.uk

Continued from page 49

Eddie Floyd, Chaka Khan, Edwin Starr, Sam and Dave, Lionel Richie and The Pointer Sisters.

The performers who sing the well-loved songs learned choreography and make the experience as authentic as possible for audiences.

Mr Mac explained: "The show is cast before it goes on the road, it's a year in the making.

"When you are casting the artists you want people who not only sound like but look like the acts that they are portraying.

"The guys that portray the artists have to stay in character all the time – not only do they have to sound like them and look like them, they have to have that warmth with the audience and a rapport.

"It does take a certain kind of person. It adds another element to it.

"They ask people what their favourite songs are, staying in character. You're looking and speaking like them and being a nice person at the same time."

He added: "If you say the word tribute it conjures up the image of someone in a pub with a microphone.

"That's something we always have to overcome. It's a proper production, with backdrops and sets."

And the cast of the show all wear a number of authentic costumes in order to emulate the original performers.

"There are more than 12 costume changes in the show," explained Mr Mac.

"It can be even busier back stage than it is on stage. I think when they get on stage they are breathing a sigh of relief that they are all in the right gear.

"The costumes are designed by Claire Clements, she designs them for the Magic of Motown shows as well.

"She's an expert seamstress."

The show will be performed at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley, on January 15, 2016.

Tickets to the performance are £25 or £23.50 with concessions.

The performance will be starting at 7.30pm.

For more information, or to book tickets to the show, you can visit www.atgtickets.com/bromley, or alternatively, you can call the box office on 08448 717 620.

PERFORMERS: There are more than 12 costume changes in the show

Christine Tobin on stage

JAZZ vocalist Christine Tobin will be performing at the Marlowe Studio, Canterbury, on January 16, 2016 at 8pm.

Tickets are £14.

Visit www.marlowetheatre.com to book.

Musical Annie performed

MUSICAL Annie will be performed at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, from March 1 to 5, 2016.

There will be performances at 7.30pm, 8pm, 2.30pm and 4.30pm.

To book tickets, visit www.assemblyhall-theatre.co.uk.

The Snow Queen ballet

THE Snow Queen will be performed at the Theatre Royal Margate on January 24, 2016.

The performance will be starting at 3pm.

To book, visit www.theatre-royalmargate.com.

A toymaker and his doll

TELLING the story of a toymaker and his beloved doll, Coppelia will be performed at the Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks.

The production will be performed on March 15, 2016, at 7.30pm and tickets range from £14.50 to £19.50.

For details, visit www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk

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Gilbert O'Sullivan on stage

SINGER-SONGWRITER Gilbert O'Sullivan will be performing at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, on February 18 2016 at 7.30pm.

Visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk to book.

Brendan Cole in Bromley

STRICTLY Come Dancing's Brendan Cole will be bringing his latest show, A Night To Remember, to Bromley.

The show will be at the Churchill Theatre on February 14 2016 at 7.30pm.

For more information or to book visit www.atgtickets.com/bromley.

Aladdin runs in Margate

FAMILY panto Aladdin will be performed at the Theatre Royal Margate until December 29.

For more information or to book tickets you can visit www.theatreroyalmargate.com or call 01843 292795.

A night full of jazz music

A jazz night will be held at the Tom Thumb Theatre, Margate, on January 13 2016.

Musicians including pianist Nick Capocci, guitarist Tony Hudd and saxophonist Lawrence Fletcher will be in attendance.

The event starts at 8pm and tickets are £8.

For details visit www.tomthumbtheatre.co.uk.

The Nutcracker shown at Bluewater cinema

By Molly Kersey-Law
molly.kersey-law@archant.co.uk

A performance of the classic Christmas ballet The Nutcracker will be streamed live from the Royal Opera House and shown at Bluewater's cinema.

The performance was originally live streamed on Wednesday (December 16) and it will be screened again at the Bluewater Cinema de Lux on Decemer 27 at 2pm.

The Nutcracker has been performed by members of the Royal Ballet.

The festive favourite features Russian composer Pyotr Illyich Tchaikovsky's original score, as well as a Christmas tree that magically grows and the famous dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy - which is performed on stage by the Royal Ballet principal Lauren Cuthbertson.

Choreographer Peter Wright's production tells the story of Clara - danced by the Royal Ballet's first soloist Francesca Hayward - whose Christmas is transformed by a visit from Drosselmeyer, a mysterious magician and maker of magical toys.

Drosselmeyer, danced by Gary Avis, longs to break a curse that has transformed his nephew into a nutcracker doll.

Speaking about the screenings, general manager at Showcase, Mark Barlow, said they would get audiences into the festive spirit.

"Last year's Christmas performance of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by The Royal Ballet was so popular we jumped at the chance to bring them back to our screens," he said.

"The Nutcracker is a Christmas classic that cannot fail to get you into the festive spirit so we're delighted to be offering two screenings of the Royal Opera House performance."

The performance will last for two hours and ten minutes.

Tickets to the screening are £17.50 for adults or £12.50 for children and they are available from the cinema box office.

Alternatively you can visit www.showcasecinemas.co.uk to book tickets.

MAGICAL: One character is turned into a Nutcracker doll

DANCE: The show is performed by the Royal Ballet

Upping your cracker game this festive season

Katie Wright looks at the luxurious and treat-filled crackers and baubles that are available this year...

EYE-ROLLINGLY bad jokes and flimsy paper crowns may be a time-honoured festive tradition, but if you want to induce gasps of delight rather than groans around the dinner table, you need to up your cracker game.

And when it comes to banging decorations, no one does it better than beauty brands, with more and more luxurious, treat-filled crackers on the shelves every year.

Add to that the gorgeous array of baubles to truss-up your tree, and you're looking at your most beautiful Yuletide yet...

Cracking Crackers: Offering the best bang for your buck are the boxes of crackers filled with beauty minis.

Baylis and Harding Midnight Fig and Pomegranate Christmas Crackers, reduced from £10 to £5 for pack of four (available at www.houseoffraser.co.uk), contain either a body wash or lotion in that fruity infusion, while Sanctuary Surprises Crackers, £10 for four, conceal the same products, but slightly larger, and in a variety of scents (available at www.sanctuary.com). The biggest bargain, however, comes with Superdrug's make-up-filled Flutter Crackers, reduced from £6 to £4.50 for five. Visit www.superdrug.com.

Moving upmarket, you'll find a handbag-ready hand cream inside each MOR My One And Only Lychee Flower Little Luxuries Hand Cream Cracker, reduced from £8 to £6 each at www.FeelUnique.com, and

LUXURIOUS: A number of crackers and baubles are on offer

Decleor's Hand Cream Cracker Skincare Gift Set, £10.80 each, available at www.johnlewis.com, while the Margaret Dabbs Fabulous Cracker, £12, contains a nourishing cuticle serum. Visit www.margaretdabbs.co.uk.

Beautiful baubles: Small enough to hang on the higher boughs, Burt's Classics Pomegranate Gift Set, £6.99 at www.burtsbees.co.uk, and Mandara's Spa Shimmer Lip Balm Bauble, £4 at www.sainsburys.co.uk, are fashioned in festive red and come with lip-smackingly scented treats inside.

If you're hosting the big family do this year, make your hands and your home presentable with the No7 Star Bauble, £6 at www.boots.com, which contains a Stay Perfect nail polish, or a Heathcote and Ivory Rainforest Hand Treats Bauble, £5 from www.heathcote-ivory.com.

For all-over pampering, pair the fizz on your festive table with a Champagne-inspired Molton Brown Vintage 2015 With Elderflower Festive Bauble, £11, which is filled with sparkling body wash, and then follow it up with a Ted Baker Mini Treasure Bauble, available in Pink or Mint, £4, which conceals a little pot of body souffle, available from www.boots.com. And when the entertaining is at an end, you can crack open the jumbo Melvita Christmas Treats Bauble, reduced to £11 from www.melvita.com, to reveal a trio of fragrant fancies, and the Scentered Stress Less Balm Bauble, £14.50 at www.scentered.me.

Ross Noble performs

COMEDIAN Ross Noble will be performing in Maidstone next year.

Mr Noble will be bringing his new show, Brain Dump, to the Hazlitt Theatre on January 18.

The performance will be starting at 8pm and tickets are £16.50.

The show is suitable for those over 15.

For more details, visit www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk.

New show for children

FAMILY show Flyaway Katie will be performed at the Folkestone Quarterhouse on January 30 at 2.30pm.

The show is based on the children's book by Polly Dunbar, with music by Tom Grey of indie rock band Gomez.

The show is aimed at children between two and seven and features puppets.

For more information, visit www.quarterhouse.co.uk.

Orchestra up on stage

THE Royal Philharmonic Orchestra will be performing in Folkestone.

Led by led by the orchestra's permanent associate conductor, Grzegorz Nowak, they will perform at the Leas Cliff Hall on February 6.

The performance will start at 7.30pm.

Tickets range from £12.90 to £36.40.

To book you can visit www.atgtickets.com/folkestone.

Garbutt is in Chatham

FOLK musician Vin Garbutt will be performing in Chatham in April.

The performer, who won the BBC Radio 2 folk awards in 2001, will be taking to the stage at the Central Theatre on April 21.

His career has spanned some 40 years.

The show will be starting at 8pm and tickets are £14.

For more information, or to book, visit www.tickets.medway.gov.uk.

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Under the skin of Palm Springs

TRAVEL: Palm Springs

by Laura Ivill

"COME fly with me, let's fly, let's fly away," sings Frank Sinatra on the speakers of my red open-top Jeep as I zip along the Californian highway to visit one of his desert homes.

It may be a century since Ol' Blue Eyes was born on December 12, 1915, but he will always be a legend, one of the greatest singers of all time; and it was here, in his playground of Palm Springs, that he lived the life that millions around the world envied.

It's still a playground - golf, tennis, horse riding, hiking in the mountains, cocktails and pool parties - with desert-dry, year-round sunshine. But it's also a global hotspot for lovers of architecture (it has the biggest concentration of Modernist architecture in the world) and the golden age of Hollywood.It once attracted the biggest names in entertainment, eager to enjoy a post-war lifestyle that had nothing to do with conflict and austerity, and everything to do with prosperity, glamour and fun.

Located at the western end of the Coachella Valley, surrounded and protected on all sides by mountain ranges soaring from the desert floor to 3,300m, the city claims 350 days of sunshine a year. Native palms spring from the aquifer, a vast natural reservoir beneath the dust, and the drive into the ultra-low-rise city feels like a journey back in time.

At the wheel of my red Desert Adventures Jeep is tour guide Bob Gross, who shares anecdotes about Frank Sinatra's life in the desert as we tour the neighbourhood where he lived, Vista Las Palmas.

Frank made the desert his home and was a generous benefactor, hence a street - Frank Sinatra Drive - named after him.

SINATRA: The iconic singer made the desert his home

Twin Palms was Frank's first desert home, and Bob drives me to the kerbside.

Twin Palms is an architectural peach. The story goes that in May 1947, Frank Sinatra showed up at new Palm Springs architecture firm Williams, Williams and Williams having made his first million. He wanted a house, a grand mock-Georgian pile as a badge of his arrival.

The young architect, E. Stewart Williams, had a different idea, but gave him the choice of the Georgian estate versus his Modernist low-slung, steel-and-glass, inside-outside bungalow. Frank chose the latter and Twin Palms, with its piano-shaped pool was ready for his wife, Nancy, and their three children to move into that Christmas.

He was a hard-living "man's man", happiest when hanging out with his Rat Pack pals whose Vista Las Palmas homes Bob and I stop outside.

He was also extremely generous and a big tipper. At one of his favourite hangouts, Melvyn's at the Ingleside Inn, the maitre d' tells me that he liked to sit in a booth by the kitchen and would pop back-of-house to hand out 100 dollar bills to the staff.

After its mid-century heyday, Palm Springs lost ground as stars migrated to other cities. In the past decade, however, the area has shaken off its "golf and retirees" reputation, when it was known as God's Waiting Room.

Cool, laid-back, small-scale boutique hotels have opened, such as The Saguaro, which has given a pop new look to an old Holiday Inn, in a paintbox of colours inspired by the desert's flowers, and recreated the Palm Springs' pool-party vibe.

Historic buildings all over the city have been saved from the bulldozer and are being given a new lease of life; downtown is buzzing - there's a funky market, Villagefest, on Palm Canyon Drive every Thursday evening - and uptown, once deserted, is now the Uptown Design District of boutiques, specialising in vintage and modern-retro homewares, furniture, clothes and jewellery.

Take the aerial tramway or a hike up into the mountains for the views, go horse riding in the desert, visit the jaw-dropping splendour of Sunnylands Center and Gardens, and enjoy authentic Italian dishes at Johnny Costa's, family-run by Frank's own personal chef.

Or just hang out by the pool, as Frank did. As it says on his headstone, "The best is yet to come", and if you haven't been to Palm Springs yet, then that is certainly true.

TRAVEL FACTS

LAURA Irvill was a guest of the Palm Springs tourist board.

Visit www.visitpalmsprings.com for more details about what is on offer.

Air New Zealand flies daily from London to LA, from £404 return in economy and £961 in premium economy.

Visit www.airnewzealand.co.uk/cheap-flights-to-los-angeles for more information or to book tickets.

Film Reviews by Damon Smith

STAR WARS EPISODE VII: THE FORCE AWAKENS
(12A, 135 mins) Sci-Fi/Action/Adventure/Fantasy

MORE THAN 10 years after Anakin Skywalker was seduced by the dark side of the Force and wielded a lightsabre in battle against his mentor Obi-Wan Kenobi in Star Wars Episode III: Revenge Of The Sith, the seventh chapter of George Lucas' sprawling saga lands in a whirlwind of frenzied hype.

JJ Abrams, who revitalised the Star Trek franchise, sits in the director's chair for this new instalment, which is set approximately 30 years after the tumultuous events of Return Of The Jedi.

Han Solo (Harrison Ford), Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) and his sister Leia (Carrie Fisher) - now referred to as General Organa - bear the deep emotional scars of their encounters with the dark side of the Force, which is led by Supreme Leader Snoke and his dangerous and unpredictable protege, Kylo Ren.

This battle royale brings together new heroes and villains including self-sufficient scavenger Rey, played by Daisy Ridley, from the desert planet Jakku, First Order stormtrooper Finn- a role taken on by John Boyega - who possesses an important artefact, and fearless Resistance X-wing pilot Poe Dameron, played by Oscar Isaac.

Their fates entwine with pirate and canteen owner Maz Kanata, ruthless First Order base leader General Hux and beloved sidekicks Chewbacca, C-3PO and R2-D2.

Prepare for record-breaking box office takings and gnashing teeth emoticons as plot spoilers leak online following the film's world premiere on Monday (December 14) in Los Angeles. The Force is still strong.

SISTERS
(15, 118 mins) Comedy/Romance/Drama

IN Jason Moore's raucous and potty-mouthed comedy, chalk 'n' cheese siblings rediscover their childhoods as they search for a clear path through the detritus of their unfulfiling fortysomething routines.

Bucky Ellis and wife Deana video call their daughter Maura to inform her they intend to downsize the family home to a retirement apartment. They ask Maura to break the bad news to her drama queen sister, Kate.

Once the dust settles, the siblings make a cross-country odyssey to their childhood home to clear out their shared bedroom before the well-to-do new owners take possession of the property.

A wave of heady nostalgia washes over Maura and Kate and they decide to bid farewell to childish things by throwing one final party and inviting all of their high school chums.

By Hannah Stephenson
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CHRISTMAS: Poinsettia's appear to be falling out of favour, according to Thompson and Morgan

Plants at the top of festive pots

THE poinsettia has historically been the time-honoured Christmas favourite - but figures suggest it may be falling out of favour.

This year it's dropped out of Thompson and Morgan's top 10 for the first time. At the top of the online plant retailer's gift predictions is Hyacinth 'Scented Pearl', while in second place is the exotic-looking Hibiscus 'Festive Flair', which can stand up to the ravages of central heating and cold draughts better than the bracts of the poinsettia, the firm claims.

"Poinsettias have been given a bad name in recent years thanks to supermarket price wars that have led to cheap imported plants being sold for as little as £1.50," says Thompson and Morgan spokesman Kris Collins.

"These imports are often grown quickly under artificial lighting, leading to spindly weak plants that are prone to damage from central heating and cold draughts. Once brought into the home, many of these will be dead before Christmas and this experience has put people off them."

While the Horticultural Trades Association, which represents the UK garden industry, cannot find any evidence backing the claims, it's true poinsettias aren't the easiest of plants.

They need to be kept in bright light but not direct sunlight and hate cold draughts. Room temperatures of 18-24C are ideal. You need to wait until the leaves show signs of wilting, then give the compost a good soak, but don't allow it to stand in water.

Other options include Christmas cactus, scented amaryllis and azalea.

So how should you look after them?

Christmas cactus: Place it in bright, indirect light and avoid moving the plant as this can cause bud drop. Water moderately and maintain moderate humidity; buds may also drop if conditions are too dry. To boost performance, feed with a good houseplant fertiliser every four weeks when the plant is in growth. Keep the compost only just moist after flowering. The cactus flowers every year. Re-pot every three to four years.

Azalea: Provide bright, cool conditions away from full sun. Initially keep the plant well watered using tepid rainwater. Use a saucer deep enough to hold 2-3cm of water at all times as azaleas tend to be thirsty.

When the plant comes into flower, reduce watering but don't let the compost dry out completely. Move to a cooler position to prolong the flowering period. Plants may flower for 10 weeks and can be re-potted.

Dendrobium orchids: They should be placed in a light spot but not in direct sunlight, ideally a lightly shaded south-facing window. Water your orchids in the morning so the leaves are dry before night. Dendrobiums like to be in small pots and are usually taller than the pot is wide. Water once a week, giving them a good soak and draining them well before putting them back in the pot. They hate wet roots and need to be almost dry before re-watering.

feedback

your say...

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Social mobility is just a myth

I AM am pleased (for them) that your three correspondents [Letters, 06.12] are satisfied with their 1950s education.

However, there have been plenty of parents in Kent over the last 60 years who have been far from happy that their children have been split up from their primary friends and neighbours, labelled 'failed', and barred from selective schools as a result of the Kent Test or its fore-runner, the 11 Plus.

Back in the 1950s the grammar school system spread across the country. It was the unpopularity of children being segregated at 11 - amongst parents across the political spectrum - that drove the emergence of a comprehensive approach. This, at its best, gave far greater opportunities to all youngsters, achieved better attainment levels overall and contributed to the significant social mobility that characterised the 1960s and 70s.

Kent's selective system is a remnant of that unpopular past. But, over the last 20 years, rising inequality and the growth of expensive private coaching have made the Kent Test more unfair whilst our grammar schools fail to provide even the small amount of social mobility they did when your two Colins and David Preston went to school.

Indeed, compared to 26 per cent of children across the county being entitled to 'free school meals' just five per cent of children in grammar schools are.

They simply don't admit the mix of children that could possibly lead to any significant social mobility. On the contrary, they now perpetuate the social and economic divisions they have helped to create.

So, is this system based on segregating children at 11 making up for these failings by outperforming all those areas with a comprehensive approach? No, Kent is 48th in the national league of educational outcomes.

None of your correspondents, nor KCC leader Paul Carter, have addressed the further problem I raised [Letters, 22.11] that the selective system is also limiting Kent's future enterprise and prosperity.

Recent research for the Social Mobility Commission suggested that if, over the next 20 years, the education attainment gap can be reduced by two thirds, long term growth will be 15 per cent higher.

Segregating children at 11 accentuates this attainment gap because it wastes young talent.

Richard Stainton,
Whitstable

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Why not have TA as part of terror team?

I REFER to the article about police costs (KoS, last week).

Police commissioner Ann Barnes and chief constable Alan Pughsley were advocating everyone in Kent contribute £5 to their budget to employ just 37 more firearms officers.

They can have my £5 any day but is this really the answer to what Mrs Barnes says is a 'severe' terrorist threat.

Does she mean by severe that a Paris style attack is likely at any time and if so, is this the answer to it?

To me it seems just papering over the cracks and not really addressing the problem of keeping the public safe from a random shooting spree in one of our major towns.

How exactly is the police, even with these extra 37 officers, going to be poised to fast react, to an incident occurring anywhere in Kent?

Commonsense tells us they cannot be everywhere at once so they cannot stop people being killed, until the perpetrators are engaged by an armed response unit.

Even then, is the 9mm automatic sub machine guns, they are equipped with, going to be a match for the longer range and more powerful AK47 assault rifles, that the terrorist are all equipped with? We will have the spectre of not only innocent citizens being shot but the police being out-gunned and suffering causalities, as well.

If the authorities were serious about protecting the public from this threat, they would not be answering it with money but using our TA units, located in every major town, who have the training, the correct weaponry and transport. to be a more effective, faster reaction force, than anything the police can do.

Thereby, saving more lives of the public and the police by having the situation well under control by the time they turn up.

John Atkins
Greatstone-on-Sea

Grammars are a political result

I WRITE in response to your 'Letter of the Week' by Mr Bullen concerning grammar schools and social mobility.

I write in my capacity both as a parent in Kent, former grammar school boy, and as a university lecturer involved in research on the history of intelligence testing and selection. There are a number of fundamental flaws in Mr. Bullen's argument I wish to outline briefly.

First, there is no evidence base that conclusively proves that intelligence or "academic ability" is, in fact, a wholly measurable material fact.

Indeed, IQ (which is the basis for the 11+ test in Kent and elsewhere) is a controversial area of psychology whose conclusions have been consistently questioned since the 19th century.

Much of the "evidence" for fixed, innate human intelligence (or "academic ability") was initially falsified (see Stephen Gould's 1981 book The Mismeasure of Man). No study of the subject is able to completely remove the effects of upbringing, social class and wealth from measurement.

The case made for the Kent Test is done on demonstrably false and unscientific premises. It is wholly political. To call IQ a fact is not only wrong, but the cause of much harm to individuals and communities. This brings us to my second point.

The Kent Test reinforces existing class hierarchies. Whilst there may have been some claim to its efficacy in the post-war period, the introduction of widespread private tutoring by middle-class parents, and the fact that a considerably lower percentage of grammar kids are on free school meals than those in comps shows its failure to produce social mobility.

Actually, social mobility is backsliding in Kent. Additionally, that the Kent Test can be tutored for shows the fundamental flaw in an IQ-based selection method.

Third, the point about slipping university standards is also untrue. I do not understand where this argument comes from. The recent Research Excellence Framework, where universities are assessed on their research merits, showed that 41 of our 128 HE institutions conduct research that is "internationally excellent" or "world-leading". That is nearly 30 per cent. That is simply extraordinary.

Can we please stop arguing that the case for grammars is anything other than a political one about preserving existing privilege?

Dr Michael Collins,
Tonbridge

Manston is NOT longest runway

IT IS about time the myth about Manston airport's runway having the longest runway in the UK let alone western Europe was put to rest.

This may have been true during the Second World War, but, according to my information from the internet, there are at least six civil airport runways in the UK with longer runways, let alone the 10-plus military or former military airbases. London Heathrow has the longest UK runway at 12,800ft.

Peter Baker,
Maidstone

Ticket hikes are still too much

I DON'T consider a one per cent rise in train tickets good news after years and years of sky-high increases.

J Harris,
Tonbridge

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.

images of kent

Dungeness
by **Lisa Mist**

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Book a test-drive

driving

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CITY STAR: the i10 (above)

MARKING THE MILLION: the stylish Tucson SUV (main picture)

ESTATE STYLE: the i40 Tourer (below)

Hyundai – now a UK Millionaire

BRAND UPDATE: It's no lottery that Hyundai has won a million UK sales. Brand quality, design and engineering has soared since 2005...

HYUNDAI has just celebrated one million UK sales, having launched here in 1982.

That first car was the unlamented Pony: it was South Korea's first mass-produced car, but that wasn't saying much about this clumsy debutante.

It was rear-wheel drive and crude, borrowing heavily from ageing British Leyland engineering and management.

Not surprisingly, the brand made heavy weather of the UK market in those early years, even if a Hyundai was a better bet than Iron Curtain dross of that era such as the Skoda Estelle, Lada Riva and the Yugo series.

Fast forward to the recent decade though and Hyundai has become one of the most go-ahead brands.

Of that million cars imported to the UK over 33 years, 600,000 have been sold since 2005 with sales accelerating seven per cent this year alone against 2014, to make Hyundai the 10th biggest brand on the UK market.

It was fitting that an example of Hyundai's latest model, the all-new Tucson SUV should notch up that debut million.

As ever with latter day Hyundai and sister brand Kia, the Tucson represents a revolution in comparison with its predecessor – the ix35 - when western rivals are lucky to boast of evolution.

ARRIVING SOON: the high-riding i20 Active hatchback

And this from the young motor industry of a nation of 51 million, selling cars to a country of 65 million that taught manufacturing to the world, yet somehow managed to trash one of its greatest motor industries.

Even more impressive is how the Korean marques expect to launch a new model every five years, rather than the seven that is typical of European makers.

Which is why, with facelifts taken into account, the i10 city car – launched in 2014 – is currently Hyundai's oldest model.

The brand's second million UK sales is surely not far off.

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KENT LIFE

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Alfa Giulietta 1.4 TB MultiAir 150 hp Sprint Speciale incl. Special Paint at £510 — Representative Example

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La meccanica delle emozioni

Model shown: Alfa Giulietta 1.4 TB MultiAir 150 hp Sprint Speciale incl. Special Paint at £510, OTR £23,830. Range of official fuel consumption figures for the Alfa Giulietta range: Urban 29.7 – 60.1 mpg (9.5 – 4.7 l/100km); Extra Urban 54.3 – 88.3 mpg (5.2 – 3.2 l/100km); Combined 41.5 – 74.3 mpg (6.8 – 3.8 l/100km). CO_2 emissions 157 – 99 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO_2 figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC directives/regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. Personal Contract Purchase. *Promotion available on Alfa Giulietta 1.4 TB MultiAir 150 hp Sprint Speciale incl. Special Paint at £510 registered by 31 December 2015. †Alfa Deposit Contribution only available in conjunction with Alfa Romeo Preferenza PCP. With Alfa Romeo Preferenza you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (a charge of 6p per mile for exceeding 6,000 miles per annum in this example) and being in good condition. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. Terms and Conditions apply. At participating Dealers only. Alfa Romeo Financial Services, PO BOX 4465, Slough, SL1 0RW. We work with a number of creditors including Alfa Romeo Financial Services.

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Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat Doblò Cargo 1.3 90 MultiJet II Euro 5+ in mpg (l/100km): Combined 56.5 (5.0), CO_2 emissions 133g/km. Euro 5+ with start/stop: 58.9 (4.8), CO_2 emissions 126g/km. Fuel consumption and CO_2 figures based on standard EU tests for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. FOR BUSINESS USERS ONLY and DIESEL VERSION ONLY. *0% APR representative Balloon Hire Purchase for 48 months based on Fiat Doblò Cargo 1.3 MJ 90 at £17,848 OTR incl.VAT, with customer deposit of £3,552 incl.VAT, Fiat Professional Deposit Contribution of £3,500 incl. VAT, 47 monthly payments of £165 incl. VAT and a Final Payment of £3,041 incl. VAT. Balloon Hire Purchase promotion available on new Doblò models registered by 31st December 2015. Fiat Professional Deposit Contribution only available in conjunction with this Balloon Hire Purchase promotion. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. Finance provided by Fiat Financial Services, PO Box 4465, Slough, SL1 0RW. The Maximum Care 4 Years Warranty guarantees your vehicle against faulty materials and faulty workmanship during manufacture for a period of 48 months or 100,000 miles, whichever occurs first from the date of first registration in the UK. This excludes wear and tear items. Warranty is subject to exclusions. Terms and conditions apply. The 4 Years Roadside Assistance consists of Fiat Professional Assistance Service, in the countries and according to the methods shown in the owner's policy information, for a period of 48 months from date of first registration in the UK. Terms and conditions apply. The Easycare 4 Years Free servicing is for 4 years or 80,000 miles (whichever occurs first) and includes all services as per the manufacturer's recommendations but excludes wear-and-tear items and other maintenance items not covered under the service schedule. Terms and conditions apply. The Maximum Care 4 Years Warranty, Easycare 4 Years Free Servicing and 4 Years Roadside Assistance offers may be used in conjunction with Balloon Hire Purchase 0% APR for 48 months.

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A Citroën – but not as we know it

The French marque's everyday C4 hatch is not as eye-catching as others with that badge, but it's worth a second look, write **Steve Loader...**

C4 Flair 1.2 PureTech 130

Price:	from £18,245
Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Hyundai i30

TWO of Citroën's star cars are the classy C4 Picasso MPV and the slightly wacky C4 Cactus – a bargain holdall.

So the mainstream C4 hatchback already sits in the shade and, even worse, has less glamour than its sleek and characterful pre-2011 predecessor.

This, you may remember, came as a racy three-door fastback or chic yet practical five-door and housed audio and some other controls on a fixed boss on the steering wheel, the sort of idiosyncrasy for which the French marque is famous.

In comparison, the current five-door-only C4 is rather strait-laced, though a facelift earlier this year has made it worth a second look, with its huge light aircraft-style windscreen, which can be allied with a panoramic roof to make the cabin exceptionally airy.

This psychological lift is just as well, because the C4 doesn't actually offer great rear legroom for its class even if, perversely, it has one of the biggest boots.

Comfort levels are excellent though; the well-organised cabin feels very refined thanks to good noise insulation and typically cushioned Citroën ride quality, though not the brand's famous hydro-pneumatic system, rumoured to be facing the axe anyway.

But this dedication to passenger comfort comes at the cost of driver enjoyment when the rare opportunity comes along to 'open her up': the C4 can wallow on bends and the message then booms loud and clear that this car is designed for comfy A to B driving.

At least you will be doing that economically: the C4 line-up comes with some of the greenest and best petrol and diesel engines around and the eco-focussed 130PS (129bhp) 1.2-litre PureTech petrol engine in the test car proved surprisingly effective, with a lively response yet good green credentials.

This unit offers an official combined mpg of 58.9 and 107g/km of CO2 emissions, the latter figure narrowly missing out on exemption from road tax – it will still cost you nothing in year one and just £20/year thereafter.

Indeed, strike a keen deal upfront and you could be quids in with the C4 during your ownership, until you come to sell that is. For depreciation could be the C4's curse when hard-nosed used car buyers weigh it up against driver-focused family hatch rivals, like the Ford Focus, VW Golf and Vauxhall Astra.

On the other hand, it is a distinctive buy against such ubiquitous models, so a secondhand C4 could be a sound choice.

The much admired 1.6-litre diesel or HDi models (from £16,745) also hold their money better though you are paying a £2,100 premium over the equivalent petrol version – private buyers who cover sensible mileages – A to B – will still be better off with the petrol models (from £14,645).

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^Participating Retailers only. £500 Free Fuel offer not available on VIVA, Corsa Sting, Corsa Sting R and Run Out Astra and cannot be used in conjunction with the Vauxhall Scrappage Allowance. £500 Free Fuel will be supplied via pre-pay debit card. Purchase only, cannot be used to withdraw cash. Refer to www.vauxhall.co.uk/offers or contact your local Retailer for details. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1- 24 units (purchase only). All other customers are excluded. Offer restricted to eligible, selected new vehicles ordered between 27 December 2015 and 11 January 2016 and registered by 29 February 2016. Terms, conditions and exclusions apply. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Correct at time of going to press.

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Salary: £25-27,000 per annum dependant on qualifications and experience
Qualifications and experience
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Closing date: midday 6th January,
Interviews: week beginning 11th January.

An application form & further details can be located on the School's website www.doyrms.com , emailing reception@doyrms.com or 01304 245023.
CVs will not be accepted. Notification will be sent via email.

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Details of this position and an application form are available on our website www.folkestonegirls.kent.sch.uk or by email: sbell@folkestonegirls.kent.sch.uk

Only applications submitted on the schools application form will be considered

Closing Date: Tuesday 5th January 2016
Successful candidates will be notified no later than Tuesday 12th January 2016

Applicants should be aware that we use the Disclosure and Barring Service to assess suitability for positions of trust. An Equal Opportunity Employer. The Folkestone School for Girls is committed to the protection and safety of its students.

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Bull 'desperate' to repay faith shown

The goalkeeper has been appointed Margate boss until May

Football

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

NIKKI Bull says he is relishing "a fantastic opportunity" after being appointed manager of Margate until the end of the season.

The 34-year-old goalkeeper was given the job after the board considered a number of options following the sacking of former boss Terry Brown earlier in the month.

Bull will combine his roles as a player and a manager but insists that taking charge of the team is his priority.

He told KoS: "It's a fantastic opportunity, and the club have shown an unbelievable amount of faith in me and I'm desperate to repay that.

"A lot of the people went for the job so the decision came out of the blue but I'm extremely grateful to have such support from the players, the chairman, the chief executive and other members of the board.

"In the short term I won't be playing, and we'll be bringing in a goalkeeper.

"With the responsibility I've been given I didn't think I could give my all if I was playing at the same time and I don't want to let down everyone at the club."

The former Aldershot Town and Wycombe Wanderers stopper said that the appointment didn't spell the end of his career once and for all, however, still believing he has a few years left to offer.

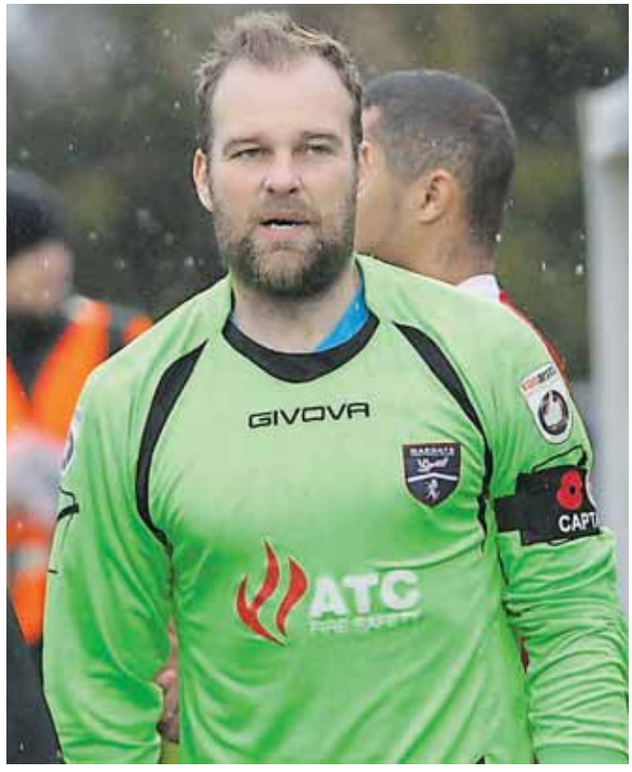
Margate have endured a difficult campaign near the bottom of the National League South table having achieved promotion last year, and Bull is under no illusions as to the task on his hands.

He said: "I think the opposition are a lot more organised in this division but quite simply teams have worked harder and wanted it a bit more than us.

"I expect my team to go on the pitch and give me everything - they won't be in the side again if they don't.

"We're not three or four games in, we're at a stage of the season where the table doesn't lie.

"We know that we need to get some results soon, but for now I just want to take each game as it comes and we'll see where we end up."



BOSS: Nikki Bull has been appointed manager until the end of the season

Improvement in community sport schemes

PUBLIC investment into community sport is to reach children as young as five as part of a ground-breaking new strategy on sport announced by sports minister Tracey Crouch.

The move will see Sport England's remit changed from investing in sport for those aged 14 and over to supporting people from five years old right through to pensioners, in a bid to create a more active nation.

Investment will be targeted at sport projects that have a meaningful, measurable impact on how they are improving people's lives – from helping young people gain skills to get into work, to tackling social inclusion and improving physical and mental health.

At the elite end, the government is supporting our Olympic and Paralympic athletes beyond Rio 2016 and into 2020 with increased exchequer funding.

CROUCH: Sports minister wants a wider range of people involved

Ms Crouch, MP for Chatham and Aylesford, said: "Sport has an incredible power to do social good and that is what our new strategy is all about.

"We will invest in sport and physical activity that shows how it can have a positive impact on people's lives, how it brings communities together while ensuring it continues to make a significant contribution to the economy too.

"We want to give everyone the best possible experience of sport from the earliest age which is why Sport England will now support children from five years old.

"We also want to maintain Britain's reputation as one of the leading nations in the world for putting on major sporting events while making sure we are the best in the world on good governance too."

Sport Shorts

» Email **sports@kosmedia.co.uk** or call **Tom Pyman** on **01233653477**

Billings stars for Lions in Dubai Super Over

KENT'S Sam Billings struck another half-century for England Lions as they overcame Pakistan A in Dubai in a Super Over to settle the T20 series.

The academy graduate reached 50 off just 30 balls as the Lions appeared to be coasting to the victory target of 166, after good bowling from Liam Dawson and Jamie Overton kept the Pakistan total down to 165 for three.

Kent teammate Daniel Bell-Drummond scored 17 off 15 on his debut for the side, but scoring slowed in the closing overs and the Lions only managed to tie the scores, triggering the Super Over.

Billings and player of the series Dawid Malan - who hit 81 earlier in the day - returned to strike 12 from their six balls before Tom Curran restricted the hosts to eight runs to seal a 3-2 series victory.

The result meant the Kent wicket keeper/batsman was celebrating a third series win after victories in ODI and T20 series against the senior Pakistan side with England earlier this winter.

FIFTY: Kent's Sam Billings

GALLAGER: Home of Maidstone United

Stones sign Sweeney from Dulwich Hamlet

MAIDSTONE United have signed highly-rated midfielder Dan Sweeney from Dulwich Hamlet.

Boss Jay Saunders made a request to speak to the 21-year-old last weekend and bosses at Champion Hill granted permission.

Sweeney, who has attracted interest from Football League clubs, was at the Gallagher Stadium last Saturday to witness the Stones' FA Trophy defeat at home to Bognor Regis Town, where Chike Kandi bagged the only goal of the game.

After starting his career with AFC Wimbledon, Sweeney joined Dulwich from Kingstonian in October, having made more than 80 appearances for The Ks.

The Stones have enjoyed a fine start to life in the National League South, having only been promoted last year.

They currently occupy the play-off positions, with the aim of securing back-to-back promotions and a place in the National League alongside Kentish rivals Dover Athletic, Bromley and Welling United.

Athletic fixture to be televised

DOVER Athletic have announced that their home fixture against Cheltenham Town next month has been selected for live television coverage by BT Sport.

The match has been rescheduled for Sunday January 24, with kick-off at 12.15pm.

This will be the fourth time that Whites have been televised in recent seasons, each time at Crabble - previously against Barnet, Crystal Palace and then Woking back in September.

In the reverse fixture three months ago, The Robins came out 3-2 victors, with Billy Waters scoring the winner after the Whites threw away a 2-0 lead having been reduced to ten men.

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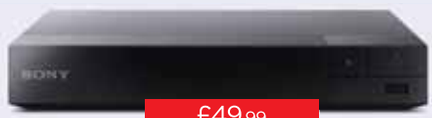

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